



**NEW SOUTH WALES
RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION INC.**

2023

**116TH ANNUAL REPORT &
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

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ALSO TO:

Frank Kitcher

Graeme West

Ron Pearce

Frank Leonard

for sharing their refereeing

career stories in 'Looking Back'



**‘As you drink
from the well
take time to remember
those members
who dug it.’**

**THE NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES ASSOCIATION
AMALGAMATED
WITH
THE COUNTRY REFEREES ASSOCIATION
IN FEBRUARY
2022**

NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION BACKGROUND

The NSWRL REFEREES' ASSOCIATION was founded along with the first foundation Rugby League clubs in 1908.

A proud association with a fine heritage and a rich, deep history. For over 116 years we have developed, coached, supported and mentored aspiring referees from our districts through to 1st Grade NRL & NSWRL and into International matches around the world.

From the first Association President elected at the inaugural meeting in 1908, Mr J Hoyle #18 and the first appointed Association Secretary, Mr A Welch #39 the NSWRLRA has been at the forefront of the game - a much admired member of the NSWRL.

February 2022 witnessed the 'initial meeting' of an amalgamation of the NSWRLRA and the Country Rugby League Referees Association (CRLRA) at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence, Sydney Olympic Park. At that historic meeting, the first Board of the amalgamated body was confirmed by the election of metropolitan (3) and regional (3) Directors, with the first Chairman, Kevin Greene, an independent appointment, in the chair.

1,037 referees have been elevated to grade during the 116 years forming the individual membership as Life Members, active graded members and non-active graded members. Twenty-nine (29) associations across the length and breadth of NSW form a membership base which now represents over 5,000 active and retired referees. A true peak body.

The NSWRLRA structure now mirrors the changes that the NSWRL and CRL made in recent years. The NSWRLRA is an ever-present member of the NSWRL - formed in the same year as the famous foundation clubs.

The future of the NSWRLRA is what we make it. We all need to take the time to appreciate and respect what each member - individual or association has done in the past and the role they undertake now.

There has never been a more important time for referees and officials of all levels to work together to ensure our members can participate to the best of their ability in a safe and nurturing environment.

THE CLASS OF 1909

1909 Referees Squad



*EDWARD JAMES HOOPER
The first President 1908 - 1912*

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the 116th Annual General Meeting of the New South Wales Rugby League Referees' Association (NSWRLRA) will be held as follows:

Sunday 11 February 2024
John Quayle Auditorium
NSWRL Centre of Excellence 12 Dawn Fraser Ave
Sydney Olympic Park, NSW
Commencing at 11am

You are cordially invited to attend in person or via Zoom technology.

Please note:

The Board of Directors have agreed to members / nominated delegates participating via Zoom technology. Delegates (1) must be nominated by their Association and registered 24 hours prior to the meeting with the Executive Officer. Only members / delegates can attend the meeting.

The Order of Business will be:

1. Welcome by the Chairman Kevin Greene
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of attendance and delegate registration
4. Motion of Condolence

5. Confirmation and acceptance of the Minutes of the 115th ANNUAL General Meeting as issued.
6. Correspondence (related to the AGM)
7. Chairman's Address
8. Executive Officer's Report
9. Presentation & Adoption of the 116th Annual Report of the NSWRLRA
10. Presentation & Adoption of the Financial Statement and Accounts of the NSWRLRA
11. Election of Directors for 2024
12. Notices of Motion
13. Life Member Nominations – Paul Holland & Russell Turner
14. Associate Member for Life Nomination – Craig Matthews
15. Honorariums
16. Announcements

Members are invited to join the Board and guests for a BBQ lunch at the conclusion of the meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Greg McCallum JP
Executive officer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023



1. KEVIN GREENE 2. STEVE CLAPSON 3. WILLIAM DRURY
4. PETER FILMER 5. MARK HOLTON
6. KEVIN FORDE 7. GEOFF WHIDDON

GREG MCCALLUM
(Executive Officer)

Matt Hewitt was in place until June 2023, replaced by Mark Holton.

PATRON'S REPORT

Ian McCall & Doug Wintin OAM



With the extremely limited face-to-face time we have as inactive members these days it was again great to renew old friendships at the SCG Life Members luncheon. Pleasing also to see the usual support from the active NSW Members and more importantly this year, to see a good representation from the NRL contingent including Grand Final appointees. Their attendance does place that extra importance on the day. There was a large attendance also, certainly the largest to date, from our Group Members who made the effort to come to Sydney.

Whilst we appreciate the importance of the formalities on the day, sadly time is very limited to touch base with the broad cross section of our old comrades in arms.

With the increase in the number of games, our active referees faced a heavy workload but fortunately some were afforded the opportunity to be appointed to touch lines and experience the game at that higher NRL level. They appear to face a reluctance by the NRL to elevate them to that higher central referee status, maybe because of an in-built risk concern or an unpreparedness to broaden the full-time contracted numbers.

Whilst repetitive it is necessary to take this opportunity to thank our Board Members for their ongoing efforts in professionally managing the running of the Association. Matt Hewitt, who earlier this season resigned from his role as Finance Director needs to be recognised for his commitment, not only in that role but for his tireless effort to achieve the end result of the successful nomination. Special thanks to our Executive Officer (Emcee & Photographer) Greg for his many hours of involvement.

It would be very remiss not to make mention of Grade Member 884 who after many years has announced his retirement from the active ranks. Ben Cummins, we congratulate you on your achievements and wish you your ongoing success in the outside world.

2024 shapes as being a very interesting year, starting with a revisit of the game to the USA by the NRL to open the season. Let's hope it is a year of greater opportunity. The Americans may be able to solve that rather bemusing question as to why we need scrums.

Enjoy the year, may your strong commitments be rewarded.



CHAIR'S REPORT

Kevin Greene AM



In 1907 when JJ Giltinan and others sat down and commenced Rugby League in NSW, they quickly realised that as well as having players, officials and clubs, they also needed referees. Our Association was formed and has grown hand in hand with the game over the last 116 years. Now we represent over 5000 members covering all regions of the State.

While the game that Giltinan and his peers started has seen many changes over the years, from jersey material to scrums, the one thing that hasn't changed is the commitment of those entrusted to administer the rules on the field of play. They continue to strive for excellence.

Whether blowing the whistle in Under 6's in Wagga or NSW Cup at Accor Stadium our members take great pride in their performance, staying up to date with everything from fitness to touch judging techniques.

Again this year, when attending various functions, I've been impressed by the quality of the men and women who represent us. On all occasions the overwhelming sentiments that come through are their respect for those who assist them and the camaraderie that exists in their ranks. Values that are well taught and well learnt.

As members, whether you've come through the graded ranks or an affiliated Association, you can be proud of the contribution you make to the game we love. Referees should and do hold a special place in the game and it is our responsibility to build on the foundations so solidly built over the last century.

To those who have won our awards this year, congratulations on your personal success. To those who've been promoted to the graded ranks well done and good luck with your careers. To those who have given generously of their time on the Executive of Associations thank you for taking on this additional responsibility. Also, to those who've acted as mentors and coaches many thanks for sharing your expertise and knowledge. I particularly thank Ken McNaught who when asked by the NSWRL and our Executive to assist in MacArthur, did so willingly and diligently.



As the independent chair I am extremely grateful for the work undertaken by my fellow directors. Steve Clapson, William Drury, Peter Filmer, Kevin Forde, Mark Holton and Geoff Whiddon are all passionate about refereeing and supporting referees. Their knowledge and experience has ensured the Association is well administered and most importantly in touch with issues across the State. I sincerely thank them for their commitment and energy. In that regard I'd also note Matt Hewitt who, because of work pressures, stood down during the year. Matt was a strong advocate for the Association and gave of his time and expertise because he loved the organisation, no doubt the reason he is so highly respected.

When speaking of our Directors I'd also like to note the outstanding work of our Executive Officer, Greg McCallum. Greg goes out of his way to ensure that everything we do is done well. He is an excellent communicator and because of his unsurpassed knowledge of refereeing, the history of the Association and everyone involved in the game he is invaluable. A big thank you Greg.

Finally, I acknowledge the strong relationship with have with the NSWRL. Chairman, Paul Conlon, and CEO, David Trodden, are wonderful supporters of our Association and their leadership ensures that all our dealings with that organisation are co-operative and professional. Special thanks to Stuart Raper, Paul Kalina and Gavin Badger.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NSWRL REPORT

David Trodden



Congratulations to the NSWRLRA on what has been a very successful year.

The early days of the merger between the former iteration of the NSWRLRA and the CRLRA appear to have been seamless, which is a great tribute to the leaders of the organisation and the spirit of goodwill and good faith which they clearly bring to their roles.

Our graded referees, our junior representative squad and indeed all of the 2,672 referees across the state contribute to the great success of all of our competitions and they have the gratitude of everyone at NSWRL for this. We enjoyed record player participation numbers this year and it goes without saying that we cannot achieve those milestones without the skill, dedication and support of our referees. In particular, I congratulate the members of the graded squad who, in my assessment, are the best officials at their level of the game in the country. It should not be lost on anyone that all of the referees on the field in the NRL grand final this year came through the NSWRLRA pathway. That evidences the strength of our pathways.

My personal thanks to the Chairman of the NSWRLRA, Kevin Greene and to the senior executives of the organisation, in particular Greg McCallum, for the work that they do for the benefit of rugby league in our state. Additionally, Stuart Raper, Paul Kalina and Gavin Badger have done a wonderful

job with our high-performance referees and each of them are people who I am proud to work with.

To everybody in the association, thank you for what you do for our game. I look forward to a successful 2024 season.



DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING & SOCIAL REPORT

Peter Filmer



It is my pleasure to provide this report for season 2023 as your board member responsible for communications, marketing and social activity for our Association.

Season 2023 witnessed the continued evolution of our Association since the coming together of the NSWRLRA and the CRLRA.

This directorate essentially has three arms being Social, Marketing and Communication.

The social component is settling nicely with our traditional events being well supported and continuing to provide social interaction and camaraderie between our members. The annual, members reunion and presentation day at the time-honoured Sydney Cricket Ground attracted a record attendance and was a wonderful day. My congratulations are extended to all the award winners. I would personally like to congratulate Bill Harrigan on receiving Life Membership. People can choose to disagree, but Billy revolutionised refereeing setting standards in various areas previously unmatched. I would however flag in this report that whilst this event will always be held, we will need to weigh up the nostalgia value of holding the day at the Sydney Cricket Ground against the high cost of using this venue. Our Finance Director I am sure will reference in his report difficulties we are currently experiencing with a large reduction in our revenue and this event is not immune from the affect that this is having. Time will tell.

The Brooklyn Bash was held a couple of weeks later and was, as always, a great catch up and celebrated in the true traditions of the "Bash." Although the number of attendees is declining those attending had a great day. Next year is the 35th anniversary of the "bash".

The Brian Barry Bowls Day was also a great success notwithstanding that a number of regular attendees were unable to play this time. As with all social events this was again an opportunity for members to come together in the spirit of good old-fashioned competition, share in some stories over a few drinks.

The Les Mathews Memorial Golf Day was again hosted at the picturesque Bowral Country Club. There were 36 starters in glorious weather conditions at the with varying levels of talent on display. I wish to thank and congratulate my fellow Director Steve Clapson for his organisation of what was a great day and thank Craig Mathews and his crew for all of their help in the early hours of Sunday morning. I would also wish to acknowledge the Western Suburbs Association who have initiated a memorial trophy for the golf day in honour of our life member Dennis Spagarino. Dennis loved the golf day and this was last engagement with our Association prior to sad passing in November, 2023.



As I did in this report last season I must acknowledge and thank Greg McCallum, our Executive Officer, for his tireless work that he has done to make many things possible and assist in the evolution of our Association through communications. Greg's work in this space has been integral within this portfolio. Whilst we continue to develop our identity Greg utilises all forms of newer technology to keep members informed regarding the things happening in our Association.

Regrettably the marketing element of this portfolio is still very much a work in progress. I believe that we need to develop a basic marketing plan and the best way forward may well be to form a small working group to undertake this task. This was my view at the end of the 2022 season and that opinion has not changed.

In closing I wish to thank the membership for your support in trying to deliver the elements of this portfolio. There is still much work to do. I also thank the members of the Board for their support and assistance as we continue to forge the way forward.

Our constitution provides that two director's terms from both the Metropolitan and Regional membership bases shall conclude at the end of 2023 and I have indicated that my position should be one of those from the Metropolitan membership. At the time of writing this report I intend to again contest for re-election to the position.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Greg McCallum JP

Season 2023 our second year in our amalgamated format was a very busy, but successful one for the NSWRLRA.

The 115th AGM of the NSWRLRA was held on March 8, 2023, at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence under the Chairmanship of Kevin Greene. The Directors - Metropolitan 'college' Peter Filmer, Matthew Hewitt & Steve Clapson and William Drury, Geoff Whiddon & Kevin Forde continued into their second year representing the Regional 'college'.

VALES

To all members who lost loved ones during 2023 the NSWRLRA offers our deepest sympathies. In our Vale section we pay a small tribute to members and those close to our Association who may no longer be with us, but their legacy and memories remain strong.

BOARD MEETINGS / GENERAL MEETINGS

The NSWRLRA met on six occasions during the year via zoom and there were two general meetings were held during the season along with an important information meeting with Matt Sibley - Child Safe Officer (Sport) from the Office of the Children's Guardian who outlined important issues that all sporting bodies who are involved with young people under 18 years of age must be aware of.

Whilst by the very nature of the size of NSW face to face meetings are not always possible the Board continues to work towards more opportunities to meet in person.

The NSWRLRA now is truly the peak body for referees at all levels across the state. There are now more than 5000 active and non-active referees under the banner and with strength in numbers comes strength across the game. Communication and respect have remained key aspects on how we have consolidated in our second year as an amalgamated body. Referees no matter where they are based in the state now have a supportive pathway to travel to reach their aspirations.

NSWRLRA CONFERENCE

Our first major Conference was held in March at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence in Homebush. Over the two days in excess of 90 delegates from throughout NSW attended. The main focus of this Conference was Coaching and Development. Tony Archer and his team were on hand to provide a good balance of theory and practical activities to bring our associations up to date with the current approach to mentoring, coaching and assessment.

Session was held with Association Executives which gave an opportunity to raise issues and seek clarifications on current leadership initiatives.

THE DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The season again commenced early again for the Development Squad, commencing training well before Christmas and under

the guidance of Gavin Badger and his team again performed admirably with many referees from across the state having opportunities to referee at the first representative level.

From the group five (5) referees were graded into the High-Performance group and therefore into the NSWRLRA. They were:

- #1033 Joel Pitscheider
- #1034 Mitch Robinson
- #1035 Tate Hoobin
- #1036 Brayden Hunt
- #1037 Lachlan Greenfield

We look forward to following their careers.

The Achievements of the Development Squad were recognised in a presentation evening at Canterbury Leagues in late May. Again, I would on behalf of our Board thank Leagues' Club Chairman Peter Winchester, John Khoury and the rest of the Board for their wonderful support of the NSWRLRA by waiving room hire fees for the event.

Over 90 referees from the squad were in attendance. A number of significant awards were handed out - a full coverage of the event is captured elsewhere in this report. Congratulations to all of the young men and women who committed so strongly to their preparation and performance in these competitions.



Development Squad Award Recipients 2023

THE HIGH PERFORMANCE SQUAD

Under the direction of Stuart Raper in his role of High-Performance Head Coach and Operations Manager Paul Kalina this group once again excelled in their efforts in the



major NSWRL competitions. The HP Squad or as they are often referred to as the 'Grade Squad' are an extremely important group within the NSWRLRA.

Balancing work and family commitments with the demands of training, game evaluation and of course the on-field performance is not an easy one. It takes great dedication, commitment, passion and sacrifice. The group demonstrates week in and week out that they have all of those aspects in spades. Congratulations to the Squad for their immense contribution to a wonderful season.

NRL ELITE PERFORMANCE

Another exciting NRL season with the Grand Final being one of the greatest played in any era.

The close working relationship with NRL Referees Elite Performance Manager Jared Maxwell is one that is greatly appreciated by this Association and its members. Jared understands and respects the role the NSWRLRA and the Associations play in the early - mid development of referees.

Congratulations to our members whose performances were recognised with significant appointments throughout the season. To Adam Gee strong end of season performances saw him appointed to his initial Telstra Premiership Grand Final. Congratulations on that wonderful achievement - you are one of 42 referees who have achieved that honour in the history of the game - 116 years! Congratulations also to Dave Munro, Chris Sutton and Ashley Klein who were also involved in the decider.

I would like to once again thank NRL Operations Manager Gavin Reynolds - himself a member of this Association - for his great co-operation throughout the season.

To the Australian Rugby League Commission, it's Chair Peter V'Landys, CEO Andrew Abdo and staff thank you your efforts in supporting our members who are part of the fulltime and part-time Squads. I thank also NRL Head of Football Graham Annesley for his report and support of referees in which is a most challenging role.

GRANTS TO ASSOCIATIONS

The Board is delighted to have been able, despite some funding issues, to have supported our Associations with Administrative and Coaching & Development Grants to a figure of around \$100K for season 2023. These grants greatly supported our member associations to purchase aids such as referee communication systems, hire quality training facilities and trainers, referee training gear and provided administrative expense support.

As Executive Officer I would like to thank Chairperson Kevin Green and the Board of Directors Peter Filmer, Matthew Hewitt / Mark Holton and Steve Clapson (Metropolitan) and William Drury, Geoff Whiddon and Kevin Forde (Regional) for their support and contribution to the continued growth of our amalgamated body.

Matt Hewitt stood down as Director of Finance in May and was replaced by Mark Holton - filling the casual vacancy. Matt did a great job over a number of years with the NSWRLRA and in the past 18 months of the amalgamated body. Mark Holton who is a very experienced financial operator has done an outstanding job in the role - hitting the ground running and providing excellent advice on modern financial processes.

This season has seen several issues with a small number of our member Associations. The Board has been called upon on a few occasions to deal with matters that have arisen both internally and externally with members. We request that we all remember why we are involved in refereeing and if part of the leadership of an Association, that we put what is the right thing to do and act ahead of personal advantage or promotion.

Thanks also to NSWRL Board, CEO David Trodden and staff for their financial and operational support in recognising the important work that the NSWRLRA does across the state in the propagation of referees. To our twenty-nine (29) Associations a big thank you for what you do for metropolitan and regional based referees from grassroots through to the elite.

I have enjoyed supporting our members throughout 2023 in the role of Executive Officer and look forward to continuing the role along with our Board of Directors in 2024. The upcoming 2024 NSWRLRA Conference on the weekend of February 10 & 11 in conjunction with the 116th AGM will be a great opportunity for us all to be together for the benefit of Rugby League refereeing in NSW.



NSW HP Graded Squad 2023

2023 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our social activities are an important part of the NSWRLRA where younger referees get the chance to mix with our older members and meet some of our colleagues from regional areas.

There were two (2) Lawn Bowls Days held during 2023. The first in April fell victim in part to torrential rain which flooded the Leichhardt rink, but a good social day was had by all. A highlight of the day was a talk given by Bill Harrigan OAM and the announcement that future Bowls days would be known as NSWRLRA BRIAN BARRY BOWLS DAY in honour of our Ambassador, Life Member and chief organiser.

A second day was held in September - beautiful conditions and a good turnout. Brian Barry entertained the attendees at lunch with wonderful stories of his life and times in Rugby League refereeing.

Our major social Event - The NSWRLRA Life Members Reunion and Presentation Lunch was again held at the

Sydney Cricket Ground. A great turnout of 140 Life Members and guests witnessed the presentation of significant Association awards, acknowledgements, and presentations to those appointed to Grand Finals of NRL and NSWRL and the presentation of Life Membership to Bill Harrigan OAM. Entertainment was provided by the very funny Darren Carr ably assisted by Elvis Presley who looked very much like one of our grade referees!

The time-honoured Brooklyn Bash again took place - for the 34th time in October. A very entertaining day by those who attended. Plenty of good stories, a little punting, golf putting and a few drinks made it another 'Bash' to remember. We hope for the 35th edition in 2024 we can see many more make the journey to Brooklyn.

The Les Matthews Memorial Golf Day at the 'Royal' Bowral course capped off the social program for 2023. A great turnout up from last year were greeted by great conditions. Special thanks to Craig Mathews (son of Les) and a few



Life Members Day



Brooklyn Bash



Golf Day

mates who assisted in cooking breakfast and also to our Director of Social Peter Filmer OAM who along with his two sons provided a great cooked BBQ lunch.

A new trophy was donated on the day to acknowledge both Les Matthews and our recently lost mate and Life

Member Dennis Spagarino by Western Suburbs Referees Association. Karen Spagarino was on hand to make what was an emotional presentation. A huge thank you to Western Suburbs Referees Association and their President Col White for this great gesture.



Illawarra Refs Golf Day



Bowls Day



Bowls Day

To all member's families that have suffered bereavements this year the Board of the NSWRLRA pass on their deepest sympathies.



ALAN WILLIS #544

Alan Willis was born in 1927 in Sydney. He was always a keen sportsman. He joined the Airforce in 1945 when he turned 18 but the war ended before he could serve overseas.

In the late 1940s he took up an accounting job in Papua and New Guinea where he stayed until returning to Sydney in 1960. In 1955 he married Trish whom he met in Rabaul. Trish was on a cruise and they met at the wharf. Two children were born, Peter, 1957 and Sue, 1960.

Alan excelled at sport in New Guinea playing basketball, baseball and cricket. Alan scored 92 runs the day after Peter was born and was a very good wicket keeper. Alan also took up rugby league refereeing and was highly regarded.

On moving to Sydney in 1960, Alan joined the Manly Referees Association. He refereed the E grade grand final that year and was graded in 1961 - number 544. In June 1963 he was involved in a horrendous motor vehicle accident where a car hit Alan who was riding a motor scooter. The ambulance officers didn't think he'd be alive when they reached the hospital. He had smashed legs which they thought would be amputated and many broken bones. Alan survived spending 8 months in Manly hospital. The doctors believed that his extreme high level of fitness through refereeing saved his life.

Alan walked with a limp, had a walking stick, lost 3 inches of height and had to wear built up shoes.

In 1981, Dr Merv Cross who worked with the Manly football club, operated on Alan, straightening his bowed legs, and evening his height so he could wear normal shoes.

Throughout all this ordeal, Alan always remained positive and he maintained his love of rugby league and of assisting young referees.

Alan was the NSW Rugby League Referees delegate to the Second Division as it was known in the 1970s for several years and was a member of the Manly appointments Board for many years. He was made a Life Member of Manly Referees in 1972.

On retirement in 1983, Alan and Trish moved to Mackay and then Brisbane.

Alan was 96 when he passed on 24 September 2023 and is survived by his children, Peter and Sue.



ROBERT GOBITS #646

Robert passed away in June 2023.

A Rugby League Referee with the Eastern Suburbs District Rugby League Referees Association (ESDRLRA) where he was also a Life member. Robert was graded with the NSWRL from 1974-1976.

After his grade career Robert came back to ESDRLRA where he became President and retired in 1984.

He was a highly respected referee and administrator.



MICK RUDD

Mick was born 18th September 1936 and rugby league was a big part of his life. He passed away on 13th January aged 86 as a result of a melanoma. During his time Mick became a Life Member of Turvey Park JRL, Group 9 JRL, Wagga JRL Referees Association and Group 9 Referees Association and I'd say if there was such a thing as life membership of the Group 9 Judiciary, he'd have received that honour as well.

Mick's involvement first started with his own kids' football and he was instrumental in co-ordinating local league games at Spring Street Oval at a time when there were only two junior teams in Wagga and an overflow of players looking for a game outside of school hours. This involvement led to the formation of the Turvey Park JRL club. Mick remained a strong committee man until his boys had passed their junior years and was seen at his grand children's league and touch football

as well. Following on from their junior football Mick served as a Group 9 Referee and Coach before hanging his badge up and becoming a Judiciary member.

His son Tim fondly recalled the day he was doing a touch line while Dad had the middle and a fight broke out, Tim ran on with flag up and when he arrived at his father's side he was instructed "Put your flag down Tim and take a step back, this is a good fight".

I recall Mick being in the middle in the days when scrums would erupt and on one such day when the players were separated, he had to give Les Boyd some time on the sideline. Les was certainly not too happy about that, and some words were exchanged on his way to the sheds. All said and done, punch ups were more common back in the day, and Mick was noted for being fair when dealing with these matters, on and off the field.



PHIL ELLISS #580 - LIFE MEMBER

Phil Elliss began his refereeing career as an official with the CYO competition and he was graded as referee #580 by the NSWRL Referees Association from there. He was also a member of the Public Services Referees and later joined the Manly-Warringah Referees Association.

He controlled five first grade games during the 1967 season and pursued a successful career as a touch judge after that.

After Elliss made the decision to hang up the whistle, he became a successful administrator. He was first appointed to the NSWRL Referees Advisory Board where he assessed graded referees.

He later became involved with the NSWRL Referees Coaching Panel where he helped coach touch judges and helped manage Rugby League Schoolboys Carnivals.

He was made a life member of the NSWRL Referees Association in 1978 and a NSWRL Life Member in 2004.

Phil was a very good communicator with young people and was able to get the message across to young people about refereeing.

Phil never really pushed himself into the limelight. He was happy to stay in the background, he was a team player and people admired him for that.

He came through an era where there were some really strong personalities, but he maintained a respectful manner in dealing with people.

Phil retired to the North Coast with wife Dorothy. He was 90 years of age.



PHIL COOLEY #709 - LIFE MEMBER

Phil Cooley began his refereeing career in the Newtown District Junior Rugby League.

He was subsequently graded to referee in the New South Wales Rugby League (NSWRL) in 1981, being appointed to his first first-grade match in 1986.

Cooley controlled 30 first-grade matches between 1986 and 1989. When others were preferred for that role, Cooley reinvented himself as a touch judge.

In that capacity he made his most notable contributions to rugby league, officiating in 194 NRL matches including the 1996, 1997 and 2000 grand finals and eight State of Origin matches.

Cooley retired as an on-field official at the end of 2001. He then went on to the role of video referee for a further 279 first-grade matches. Cooley retired from officiating in 2012, having achieved over 500 first-grade appointments.

- 2013 - Eric Cox Medal for very significant contribution to the NSWRLRA for at least ten years after receiving Life Membership
- 2013 - NSWRLRA 300 Club inductee for officiating in at least 300 first grade rugby league matches
- 1994 - Life Membership of the NSWRLRA

ACTIVE CAREER

- 30 ARL Central Referee appointments
- 194 NRL Touch Judge appointments (including 1996, 1997 & 2000 Grand Finals)
- 8 State of Origin Touch Judge appointments
- 279 Video Referee appointments including 2003 & 2007 Grand Finals
- 1 State of Origin Video Referee appointment

An amazing career and a man of great support and immense generosity.



TREVOR NEWLAND

The sad passing of a great friend of so many at the NSWRLRA - Trevor Allan Newland occurred midway through 2023.

Trevor was son-in law to Life Member Jack O'Sullivan and with Jack's daughter Judy, was part of our extended family. Always great company at our events and a staunch defender of referees!



REG NEWSOME

Penrith Referees Association Life Member #15 Reg Newsome, passed in late 2023.

Reg joined Penrith Association in 1975 and served with distinction undertaking various roles but most notably that of Saturday Appointments, where he dedicated so much time to coaching and mentoring our young referees.

He also held other positions including:

- Appointments Board
- Delegate Schools Committee
- Delegate Junior League
- Patron Junior Branch 1978-82, 1986
- Junior Coaching Officer
- Social Committee
- Vice President
- Jack Harris Merit Award

In 1982 the Reg Newsome Most Improved Junior Referee Award was struck in recognition of the work Reg did for our younger referees.

In fact, this was the commencement of what we now refer to as our pathways program. The winners of this award over the past 40 years are a “who’s who” of our Association.



NOEL CAHILL

Penrith Referees Association Life Member #13 Noel Cahill, passed away late in 2023, aged 91.

Noel joined the Association in March 1967 and quickly established himself as a very good referee at a time when the Association was in its infancy but fortunate to have a strong group of active referees.

After retiring from active duties, Noel found his niche as Director of Referees where he implemented the first off season training program for aspiring referees aiming for higher honours in junior representative fixtures, grade.

Listed below are some of the positions held that reflect Noel's contribution to the Association:

- Appointments Board
- President
- Vice President
- Director of Referees
- Merit Award Committee
- Patron

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT



Mark Holton

Members, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report and financial position of the Association for 2023.

The budget we submitted to the NSWRL for 2023 was \$279.5k. During the financial year we received \$150k or 54% of the request.

Our net loss from operations for the year ended 31 October 2023 was \$102k compared to \$117k net profit in 2022. This was a direct impact of the reduced NSWRL grant and an increase in expenses in 2023.

Our Balance Sheet cash position at the end of October was \$246k.

On behalf of the NSWRLRA, I want to express my gratitude to the Board of the NSWRL and Chief Executive David Trodden for their support.

The NSWRL grant matched by our cash reserves from prior years has allowed the NSWRLRA to continue to support our district association members with \$98k of coaching and development and administration grants up 60% on 2022.

Whilst our cash position is stable, with the reduction in grants received, we will need diligent management of provision of grants and control of expenses in the future.

I would like to thank all my fellow Directors for the support I have received to fulfil my responsibilities as Finance Director.

I would like to thank Matt Hewitt for his support in transitioning the Finance Director role and offering his expertise in the early days of my tenure. It is appreciated by me to a loyal and dedicated member who has managed this role so effectively and efficiently for so many years.

To Greg McCallum I sincerely appreciate your great work as our Executive Officer, wise counsel, and genuine concern for the best interest of the Association. Also, for always being there for guidance and support.

To Kevin Greene thank you for the support you have given me as the new Finance Director and for the key leadership you display as Chair.

I have enjoyed my interim role in 2023 and look forward, with the members consent, to continuing as the Association's Finance Director into the future.

In conclusion, in my opinion, the NSWRLRA is in a good financial position to provide such a valuable service to its members and the game of rugby league in general.



The fully audited financial accounts of the NSWRLRA are an appendix to this Annual Report.



A SNAPSHOT OF 2023



DIRECTOR(S) OF WELFARE & LIAISON REPORT

Kevin Forde (South) & Geoff Whiddon (North)



A long and successful season for 2023 saw our Welfare and Liaison Directors consolidate ourselves more in the roles. Getting out to visit associations and members has been a challenge with the tyranny of distance still proving a major issue.

From an Association level, both of us continue to try and get around to as many associations as we can. Kevin attended games in Group 9, Woodbridge Cup and the George Tooke Shield. He was also able to get to the Woodbridge Cup AGM and Dinner and will also be attending the Group 16 AGM and dinner in the coming weeks.

Geoff was able to “virtually attend” a Manly meeting along with helping North Sydney with an issue they had. He was able to attend the Group 2 AGM via zoom and was also available for the Newcastle Presentation Dinner and AGM (they are much easier for him).

Geoff has put forward a formal proposal to the Board to form a Welfare and Liaison committee, which will allow a representative from the committee to possibly get out to more associations and help both our individual members and association members with issues that are affecting them. Ideally, we are seeking members of the HPU on the committee that can assist with helping, not only our graded members, but also the Metropolitan Association members. We will also be seeking expressions of interest from our regional association members (possibly ex-Graded members if you're out there) that could attend meetings and functions close to the areas they reside in and that are well away from the Sydney Basin. These committee roles may also allow for our individual members, and members of our Associations, to serve the NSWRLRA in a capacity that may count towards an eventual Life Membership nomination. I will try and get out an email through the Executive Officer prior to the AGM which would outline roles and responsibilities, along with how we would meet as a committee (virtually, of course).

For any members who have suffered loss this year, we pass on our condolences and hope that the fraternity that is our refereeing associations was able to support you in this time of need. We will always ask, if you are finding life tougher than usual, that you reach out – to your friends and colleagues at NSWRLRA or through your coaches and NSWRL staff. The NRL has programs in place that can assist, and we should seek to take advantage of these when they are needed.

To all referees and match official coaches across the state we wish the best for the upcoming league season and hope that we can catch up with you as the season progresses.



DIRECTOR(S) OF COACHING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Steve Clapson & William Drury



Every year brings different challenges and 2023 was no exception. But with all challenges it is how you face those challenges that shows if you are progressing or remaining where you were. I felt we worked through the challenges to have a successful season.

The season started well with the conference where it was great to see several metro and regional associations coming together to be informed and discussed issues that they were experiencing. I must thank Tony Archer from the NRL and his staff for an outstanding job in delivering the content around coaching of referees and our executive officer for the preparation of the weekend.

With the commencement of games in early April we again were out and about to the districts to film referees, give feedback on the day, upload onto Hudl and do reviews with the referees. This continues to be an important part of our role and the referees across the board are so happy with the experience. I would like to thank John and Pete our two cameramen who were so flexible and would be there on Saturdays and Sundays when they could to get through as many referees as we could. In 2023 we travelled from

Newcastle in the north to Eden in the south and all parts in between. I would also like to thank our other coaches including Sean Hamstead, Jason O'Brien, Alan Fallah and Dave About who would always help where they could.

This season was no different to the past in all districts having issues to find referees for the 15-21 age groups where they do not have experience referees to do those age groups. Hopefully with the changes to course structure this may change.

I would also like to thank the high-performance squad and NRL referees for continuing to give back to grass roots it is not something they have to do they just do it and we all appreciate their efforts. Lastly, I would like to thank the NSWRL, Stuart Raper, Paul Kalina and Gavin Badger for their continued support to myself and the associations.



NRL HEAD OF FOOTBALL ELITE COMPETITIONS REPORT

Graham Annesley



The 2023 season has been one of the game's biggest and best ever. The introduction of the Dolphins, the expansion of the NRLW, another compelling Origin series, a new post-season international format in the region, and of course, extraordinary content week in and week out, in the most competitive and physical contact sport in the world throughout an extended 31 week NRL Telstra Premiership, culminating in one of the best Grand Finals of the modern era.

When I spoke to the NRL Grand Final match officials in the dressing room immediately following the game, I noted that not only is Rugby League one of the toughest body contact sports in the world to play, but it is also without doubt the most difficult sport in the world to officiate. The discretionary aspect of refereeing Rugby League, and how and when that discretion is applied, differentiates between those who simply adjudicate on the rules, and those who become active contributors to the remarkable spectacle our game delivers to millions of fans each year.

While the refereeing fraternity is extremely close-knit, the competition for appointments is extreme, and of course the number of opportunities is limited, meaning that many referees will be disappointed that their season has not lived up to their own expectations. However, competition is important to incentivise performance improvement, making patience and perseverance two of the most important character traits of long-term success. And of course, to those who have reached or exceeded their own expectations in 2023, the challenge is to remain humble and continue striving for further improvement and achievement.

I close by thanking everyone for their continued dedication and contribution to the ongoing growth and success of our wonderful game.



NSWRLRA HIGH PERFORMANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

Stuart Raper



Knowing the workload and number of games the 2023 season presented, both squads took on the task of preparing themselves for what was going to be a long hard season ahead.

The Development squad started in mid-November and the HP squad had a delayed start to our preseason and did not start till December which meant there was some catching up to do both physically and mentally.

From the start, myself and the staff worked hard on implementing the values of the NSWRL. With the inclusion of a training camp in January for the HP Squad and the honesty sessions that we did, I believe that they have stood up to those standards. This really kick started our season and all our training sessions and performances were of the highest of levels that could be achieved in a part time set up.

As well as the HP Camp we had a very successful Development squad training camp in Canberra. This was the 1st time we have had all our officials in Metropolitan and Regional areas together. The camp had theory and field sessions where the benefits of working in the same direction was obvious from the start to the finish.

This culminated in a highly contested Junior representative season for both the teams and the officials. This was led by Gavin Badger and his coaches. The hours involved in review, training and appointments was massive and Gavin took on this task efficiently and professionally. Lachie Greenfield and Hayden Hunt are to be congratulated on doing the Mathews cup and SG Ball grand finals respectively. They were rewarded by being graded at the end of the season and have both have been promoted to the HP squad for 2024. Brayden also was awarded the Junior Representative referee of the year at the Brad Fittler medal.

Paul Kalina on top of his work as Ops manager and coach for the HP squad, did a fine job coordinating appointments, travel, and review process for our regional competitions. Congratulations go to the referees Billy Greatbatch (Mens Country Championship) Nathan Hillier (Andrew Johns) and Bailey Warren (Laurie Daley) who officiated in these Grand Finals.

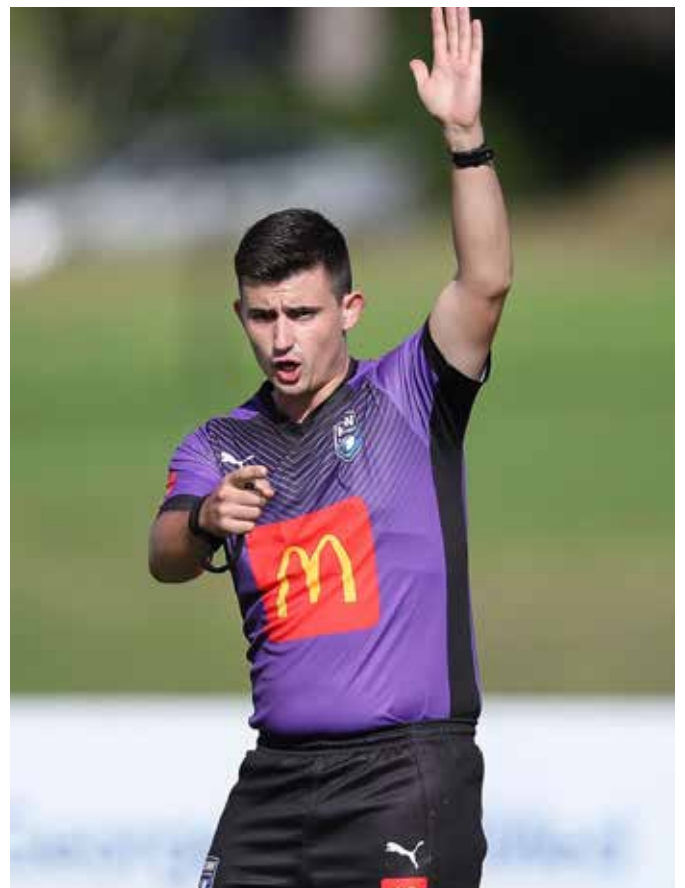
In our regional areas the RDO's and PGC's are to be thanked for their efforts for their coaching and reviews they do for the regional squad. The same must be said for the Metro PGC's that do a similar throughout all our Junior representative Games as well as the Major competitions.

Travel has become a big part of being an official in the NSWRL Major competitions. We now have games in New Zealand, Fiji, Melbourne, Canberra, and Newcastle that we

must send officials too, as well as a number of regional areas that we oversee in the Johns/Daley competitions. I must congratulate all officials on the way they deal with all this travel.

Congratulations to all our officials who officiated in representative games, finals footy and Grand Finals. Damian Brady topped off a great year by winning the Graded referee of the year and set a high standard for all officials to uphold.

Again, I must thank all the staff here at the NSWRL who make life a little bit easier, particularly when I come in a bit cranky on Mondays. There is always someone to chat too or help in anyway at the COE. Liz, Jo, and Scott Carr work tirelessly here to keep things going in judiciary and competitions. Webby (and Emily) in Finance and Adam Bowen in HR are always there when I have a problem or need assistance. Having someone like Yvette really helps me get on with what I need to do. She always keeps me grounded when I get a bit hot under the collar and can always steer me in the right direction if needed. Thank you to our CEO Dave



NSWRL HIGH PERFORMANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

continued

Trodden, who is such a loyal leader and has an open-door mantra that engages all staff members. There have been some real struggles over the past year around officiating and our squad and I have appreciated Troddo's assistance when needed to help me fix anything needed to be fixed. We are also well supported by a board that enables us to do the job right.

I am proud of what we have built here over the past 7 years. I say we, as so many have contributed to having the right system to help our officials go through the pathway with good coaching and guidance. As a High-Performance Unit, myself and my staff now oversee the appointments of several competitions inclusive of the Junior Representative season in Metro and Regional areas, Harvey Norman Women's and Tarsha Gale competitions, representative football, all Major competitions, and the Presidents cup competitions in the regional areas. We also contributed several officials for the NRLW and the NRL competitions.

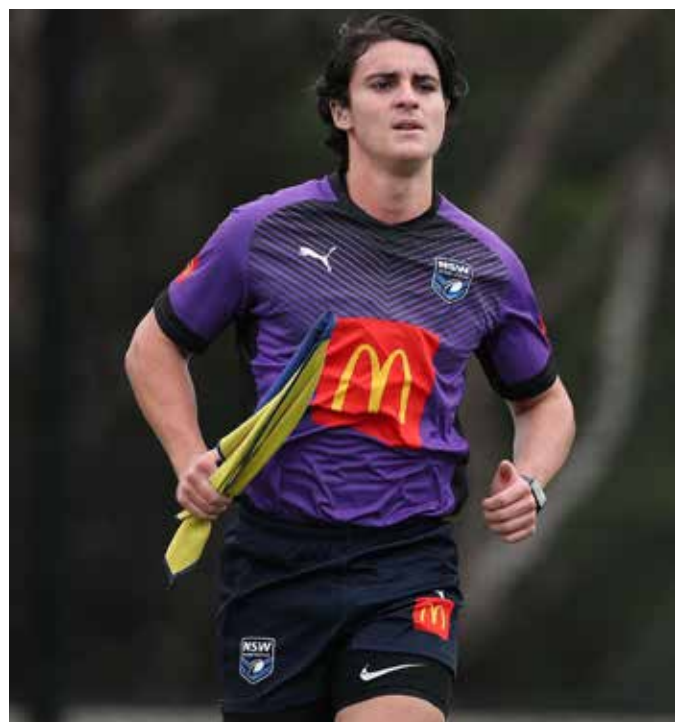
I am very lucky to be able to oversee a 2nd tier/part time set up that I would compare to anywhere in the World. The facilities here at the COE, the experience of coaches and evaluators and the dedication of all our officials is something to be proud of. This is not through accident. A lot of hard work and planning go into it.

Thanks go to all the coaching and S & C staff for the Metro and Regional squads as well as the coaches for the HP squad, Russell Turner, and Paul Holland.

Mick Stierli does a wonderful job making sure that our training is of the highest standards, and this is done here at the COE, or remotely throughout programs designed for everyone. Dan Olford has done a similar job for the Metro Development squad as well introducing programs and fitness levels required to get to the next level. With squads combining in the Development area next year, their role takes on more importance particularly for the officials that will not be able to attend sessions here at the COE. Josh Zoppo has worked hard on keeping all officials on the field doing a wonderful job. The proof of that was that by the time we reached Semi-final and grand final time we had no injuries in the HP squad.

Both Paul Kalina and Gavin Badger have been instrumental in facilitating the Developments squads for our junior representative competitions. Also, Badges work with the HP squad with his technical coaching has really developed our squad's knowledge and performances. This gives them an understanding of what's required to go to the next level. PK, as my right-hand man, again keeps the ship in the right direction. Both, as part of my team, are leaders in what all our department does and stands for.

Thanks to all at the NSWRLRA and the assistance they have given me and the staff. We all know recruitment and retention is a tough ask in officiating and we all need to work in the same direction from the top at NRL/NSWRL Major competitions down to community Rugby League to help our game produce high standard officiating.



NRL ELITE REFEREEING SQUAD REPORT



Jared Maxwell

It gives me pleasure once again to be able to submit a report to the NSWRLRA Annual Report on behalf of the NRL Elite Officiating Department.

Season 2023, for the NRL and the game in general, broke all sorts of attendance records, and broadcast ratings.

Entertaining, controversial and no doubt conversational were the hall marks of what was a long and successful season from an Officiating perspective. Success stories and disappointments are always at the forefront of Elite Sport. Season 2023 is not different.

261 NRL games, through both the Men's and Women's Premierships and Men's and Women's State of origin, played in 2 countries, 5 states, 2 territories, and a variety of regional towns, our Match Officials have been there all the way, providing a level of performance not seen in any other sport, under an incredibly intense environment, incredible scrutiny and accountability, also not seen in any other sport. The performances of a group of fulltime officials, and an ever-increasing group of very talented casual officials, were simply outstanding.

Competition brings out the best, and sometimes the worst, in people. My view is that the character of the person to fight hard for a spot will no doubt be the successful official. We move into another season where this competition for positions will again be at the mercy of the individuals. You can't gain a Grand Final appointment in January; however, you can lose one quickly if the learnings from the previous season are not built on. I look forward to witnessing how this competition will evolve for everyone.

It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the following staffing group who ensure these performances are met with the expectation that the game requires:

Coaching Team of Shayne Hayne, Russell Smith, David Fairleigh, Jason Robinson and Alan Shortall

Strength and Conditioning Team led by David Boyle, Reece Williams, Lachie Dodd and Dan Vukovic

The 'glue' of the Department in Gavin Reynolds.

I acknowledge also the role of Steve Chiddy who throughout season 2023 decided to 'hang up the boots' after a distinguished on field and off field career.

I appreciate your work ethic, and commitment to the task in what has been a very long and at times exhausting season.

Ben Cummins, also after an incredible and highly successful

career decided that season 2023 will be his last. Records are one thing, of which Ben has many, however he will always be remembered for not his records, but for the person he is. An incredibly popular member of the squad since 2005. He will be missed, his humour around the office, his professionalism on the training field, were all hallmarks of why that success follow him. It has been wonderful to be part of every aspect of Ben's career, and we wish you, Jane and the family all the best for your next instalment. Congratulations on being a wonderful servant to this game.

We had many significant milestones and achievements throughout season 2023, not limited to:

- Round 27 we witnessed history with both Kasey Badger and Belinda Sharpe being appointed as Referees for the first time in NRL history - over 115 years of Rugby League. So very well deserved and a proud moment for both incredibly resilient individuals.
- Ashley Klein refereeing the entire State of Origin series.



NRL ELITE REFEREEING SQUAD REPORT continued

- Serious competition unfolding within the Premiership – Adam Gee being the standout referee in the Finals series, culminating in Adam’s first Grand Final which will go down in history as one of the game’s best Grand Finals.
- Debutants in the NRL of Damian Brady, Dan Munroe and Dan Schwass.
- Debutants in the NRLW referee role by Cameron Paddy, Mitch Currie and Damien Brady.
- Ashley Klein being awarded the Col Pearce Medal for Referee of the Year.
- David Munro being awarded the Max Tomsett Award for Touch Judge of the Year.
- Gerard Sutton refereed his 350th NRL match.
- Grant Atkins refereeing his 250th NRL match.
- David Munro officiated in his 200th NRL match as a Touch Judge.
- Drew Oultram, Todd Smith, Chris Sutton, and Peter Gough all officiated in their 100th NRL match as a Touch Judge.

AMPOL Men’s State of Origin Series Match Officials

Referee: Ashley Klein

Touch Judges: Drew Oultram, Phil Henderson and David Munro

NRL Bunker: Grant Atkins and Ben Galea

AMPOL Women’s State of Origin Series Match Officials

Referees: Adam Gee, Belinda Sharpe

Touch Judges: David Munro, Belinda Sharpe, Darian Furner and Wyatt Raymond

NRL Bunker: Kasey Badger and Ben Galea

AMPOL Mens U19’s State of Origin Match Officials

Referee: Darian Furner

Touch judges: Dan Munroe and Clayton Wills

NRL Bunker: Kasey Badger and Matt Noyen

AMPOL U19’s Women’s State of Origin Match Officials

Referee: Rochelle Tamarua

Touch Judges: Dan Schwass and Tori Wilkie

NRL Bunker: Matt Noyen and Kasey Badger

NRL All Stars Māori Men’s vs Indigenous Mens Match Officials

Referee: Gerard Sutton

Touch Judges: Belinda Sharpe and Drew Oultram

NRL Bunker: Adam Gee

NRL All Stars Māori Women vs Indigenous Women Match Official

Referee: Rochelle Tamarua

Touch Judges: Paki Pakinson and Viggio Rasmussen

NRL Bunker: Adam Gee

NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final Match Officials

Referee: Adam Gee

Touch Judges: David Munro and Chris Sutton

NRL Bunker: Ashley Klein and Ben Galea

NRLW Telstra Premiership Grand Final Match Officials

Referee: Belinda Sharpe

Touch Judges: Mitch Currie and Rochelle Tamarua

NRL Bunker: Kasey Badger and Ben Cummins

NRL State Championship Grand Final Match Officials

Referee: Wyatt Raymond

Touch Judges: Cameron Paddy and Tyson Brough

NRL Bunker: Chris Butler and Ben Cummins

Pacific Championships – Pacific Cup Final Match Officials – New Zealand v Australia

Referee: Adam Gee

Touch Judges: David Munro and Chris Sutton

NRL Bunker: Ashley Klein and Peter Gough

Pacific Championships – Pacific Bowl Final Match Officials – Papua New Guinea v Fiji

Referee: Grant Atkins

Touch Judges: Todd Smith and Liam Kennedy

Video Referee: Gerard Sutton and Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski

In keeping with the theme of recognising and respecting the history of our game – linking the current with the past – we were very fortunate to have Doug Winton, Bryan Gilchrist, Brian Barry and Brian Gately attend the official State of Origin and Grand Final Jersey presentations – a wonderful experience with many old referee stories of the past. We thank you all for your time. These moments are priceless to the existing group – we will never take for granted what the past have done for our game, and it was fitting that all four were there to share their memories of what the game has done for everyone.

Throughout the season, the NRL has ‘themed’ rounds – I congratulate the fulltime squad on the efforts in making these ‘themed’ rounds more significant. I make special mention to Gerry Sutton, along with Belinda Sharpe who were the instigators of the incredible acknowledgement to:

Anzac Round: linking the department with the Ukraine Council of NSW to provide a day of entertainment for around 50 kids, as well as an acknowledgement of the challenges faced by the Ukraine people. A simply outstanding initiative that I hope will build into the future.

Indigenous Round: a day spent at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown to expose the squad to a cultural experience through Welcome to Country, students cultural dance and woodcutting workshop. We thank St Greg's for the welcome on this day.

Women in League Round: a significant round in our game's calendar - Redfern Oval was the venue for a WIL squad workshop consisting of 50 junior female referees, department sponsors, and media representatives working through a BTUF experience. Linking the Elite referees at any stage with Junior referees is of critical importance to the ever-growing pathway. Congratulations to all that participated.

I congratulate the performances of all officials within the NSWRL system - from 2nd Tier right through to the Junior Rep level, each of you play a role in the success that this game can bring. I wish each of you a well-earned break, and also hope that you return with an increased motivation to build on the competition that you have built this season. Confidence breeds confidence, it also breeds competition, and with healthy competition, often the best rise. Ensure you do your bit, to give yourself the best opportunity to succeed.

I thank the Managers of the State Officiating Squads, being Stuart Raper and Clayton Sharpe and their respective staff. I appreciate the honest and robust conversations that take place in relation to development and performance throughout the season. Without this level of trust and honesty, the future officials of our game are at risk of being either not being identified, or simply let through the net. Our game cannot afford to miss or lose officials at this level, and I appreciate the work of our States to ensure that the future is always looking bright for officiating.

On behalf of the NRL I thank also the Community and District match officials and volunteer coaches and Associations who spend countless hours every weekend officiating and managing the grass roots of our game. Your tireless efforts are always noticed, and we thank you for your service to this game.

On a personal front, I would like to thank the entire NRL Elite Football department and Executive for your support throughout what was a very long year. To Andrew Abdo and Graham Annesley, for your continued dialogue and level of support that is required to make this game as good as it can be, will never be underestimated. NRL support for Match Officials at all levels has never been greater, and I speak on behalf of the entire department to acknowledge and thank the NRL.

May I wish everyone involved at all levels of Officiating, a safe 'off season', a wonderful Christmas, and I look forward to being part of this incredible 'ride' come season 2024.



COMMUNITY FOOTBALL REFEREES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

Gavin Badger



The NSWRL Development Referees Squad had a very productive and successful 2023 season.

Training started in Mid-November of 2022 and as usual the squad were tested physically, mentally, and technically. With our competitions starting on the first week of February we generally are officiating during high temperatures and some extreme conditions, so the squad need to be at peak fitness not only physically but also mentally.

On that note I would like to thank and congratulate Dan Olford, out head of strength and conditioning. Dan is in a unique situation where he has officiated at a high level as well as being a highly qualified and skilled strength and conditioning coach. His knowledge of the officiating space enables him to produce training sessions that will enable our officials to be the best they can be. We are fortunate to have Dan in our program and we are grateful for the time, effort, and care Dan puts into the role.

This season we were fortunate to have a coaching staff of the highest calibre. David Munro (Technical coach), Kasey Badger (Technical & skills coach), Adam Reid (Touch Judge coach) Sean Villa (Mental health & wellbeing coach), and Ken McNaught (Coaching assistant)

The quality of this group, their knowledge in their fields, and their genuine care and willingness to share their experiences with the squad to enable them to be the best officials they can be is second to none and we are privileged to have them.

In David and Kasey, we have two current full-time elite NRL officials for our squad to learn from, this is invaluable to the group and enables them to get high level technical and skills coaching at the beginning of their refereeing journey.

A big reason our officials grow and develop at the rate they do is through the week in week out feedback they receive from the various match day and post-game coaches we are fortunate to call on.

I would like to thank you all for giving up your valuable time and imparting your knowledge to ensure that rugby league refereeing in NSW continues to flourish and we keep producing referees of the highest quality and enable them to be the best they can be and reach the highest level they are capable of.

The 2023 season saw some on field change with our squad falling into line with our major competitions, and the NRL, with the use of the 6 more system. Having current NRL officials who have been developing and using the system on our coaching staff enabled us to adapt to the changes rather seamlessly, which led to a successful 2023.

As with every season, only a handful of officials get the honour of representing the squad on grand final day. The standard of officiating not only throughout the season but also throughout the finals series was of the highest calibre. Those that are appointed get that privilege due to not only their own performances, but through the assistance and hard work of all members of the squad who have helped them get that appointment.

Those fortunate to be appointed to the 2023 Grand Finals were:

NSWRL Women's Country Championships

Referee: Mitchell Pitscheider (South Sydney)

Touch Judges: Reece Sammut (Penrith) William Flint (Penrith)

In Goal Judges: Indiana Manion (Cronulla-Sutherland) Ruby Keen (Illawarra)

Stand By: Jayden Kastelan (Penrith)

Harold Matthews Cup

Referee: Curtis Robinson (Penrith)

Touch Judges: Isaac El-Hassan (Canterbury Bankstown) Jake Walsh (Manly)

In Goal Judges: Marco Levy (Parramatta) Salvatore Marigliano (Cronulla-Sutherland)

Stand By: Jabril Daizli (Canterbury-Bankstown)

SG Ball Cup

Referee: Brayden Hunt (Newcastle)

Touch Judges: Logan Nielsen (Group 6) Tobi Holder (Central Coast)

In Goal Judges: Jack Gerrie (Balmain) Brodie Rushby (Penrith)

Stand By: Curtis Robinson (Penrith)

Tarsha Gale Cup

Referee: Lachlan Greenfield (Illawarra)

Touch Judges: Matthew Gomes (Canterbury-Bankstown) Cody Simmons (Illawarra)

In Goal Judges: Aiden Richardson (Canberra) Olivia Lawne (Parramatta)

Stand By: Brayden Hunt

Harvey Norman Women's Premiership

Referee: Ryan Micallef (Group 7)

Touch Judges: William Damato (Illawarra) Gage Miles (Canberra)

In Goal Judges: Rhianna Boag (Western Suburbs) Rami Abu-Mansour (Canterbury-Bankstown)

Stand By: Lachlan Greenfield

Congratulations to everyone appointed on grand final day, a great achievement and a great steppingstone to higher honours.

At the conclusion of the season there was a Country v City carnival of football. The Metropolitan Development squad were asked to appoint referees and touch judges to the 16's and 18's boys, as well as the 17's and 19's girls' games.

NSWRL Country v City u16's boys

Referee: Bailey Warren (Group 7)

Touch Judges: Balunn Simon (Group 7) Tom Lidbury (Newcastle)

NSWRL Country v City u18's boys

Referee: Brayden Hunt (Newcastle)

Touch Judges: Logan Nielsen (Group 6) Tobi Holder (Central Coast)

NSWRL Country v City u17's girls'

Referee: Rhianna Boag (Western Suburbs)

Touch Judges: Ruby Keen (Illawarra) Aden Hayward (Group 6)

NSWRL Country v City u19's girls'

Referee: Nathan Hillier (Newcastle)

Touch Judges: Olivia Lawne (Parramatta) Marco Levy (Parramatta)

Congratulations to all appointed and your contribution to what is an important day in the NSWRL calendar.

Throughout the year I continually work with the NSWRLRA, particularly Steve Clapson. I would like to personally thank Steve for his assistance, friendship, knowledge and general passion for rugby league refereeing. It's great to have someone to bounce ideas off who I know has a genuine love for what he does.

To the Board of the NSWRLRA thank you for your assistance throughout the season and the assistance in running our presentation night, the squad appreciates the time and funding that you provide.

This brings me to our annual awards:

- Frank Walsh Trophy- Brayden Hunt (Newcastle)
- Michael Ryan Medal- Brayden Hunt (Newcastle)
- Frank Leonard Trophy- Lachlan Greenfield (Illawarra)
- Kevin Jeffes Trophy- Jabril Daizli (Canterbury-Bankstown)
- Les Matthews Award- Marco Levy (Parramatta)



Congratulations to everyone who received awards and once again thank you to the board of the NSWRLRA for putting on a fitting end to our season.

I would also like to take this time to thank both Stuart Raper and Paul Kalina from the NSWRL referees high performance unit for their continued assistance in pushing our squad to higher levels of professionalism as well as working on making the transition between the squads a much smoother process with the inclusion of our train on squad.

This enables development squad referees the opportunity to train and officiate with members our high-performance squad on completion of the junior rep competition.

From this program 2 members of our squad were graded into the NSWRL high performance squad, they were.

- Braden Hunt (Newcastle)
- Lachlan Greenfield (Illawarra)

Congratulations to not only to fine referees but also two fine young men. I look forward to watching your refereeing journey and I hope you get everything you want out of it.

Lastly, I would like to thank and congratulate the squad for not only the effort week in week out, but also the continued growth and development of each individual member.

As coaches our aim is obviously to make you the best match official you can be, but we take our greatest pride out of seeing you all grow as young women and men not only on the field, but more importantly off it. To have a group of athletes who are committed to their craft and by in and believe in the inclusive culture we have created is something we feel will hold the future of refereeing in NSW in great stead.

Being a part of this squad requires a lot of time, effort, and energy and we are grateful of how well you all do this which allows us to be able to impart our knowledge to you hopefully helping you achieve all your goals.

Really looking forward to what the 2024 season brings.



NSWRL Referees Development Squad 2023

Name	Referees Association/Group
Rami Abu Mansour	Canterbury Bankstown
Colton Anderson-Seaton	Canterbury Bankstown
Brody Barrie	Newcastle
Harrison Bayssari	Parramatta
Joshua Blackman	Cronulla Sutherland
Rhianna Boag	Group 7
Michael Booth	Group 7
Adam Burrige	St George
Harrison Buxton	Parramatta
Shannon Castle	Group 16
Jaylen Chasle	Cronulla Sutherland
Bailey Clark	North Sydney
Isaac Cornell	Group 9
Jabril Daizli	Canterbury Bankstown
Samuel Daley	Newcastle
William Damato	Illawarra
Joel Deaves	Parramatta
Lukas Durrant	Parramatta
Tylar Dupond	Group 6
Sonny Eastwood	Woodbridge Cup
Isaac El Hassan	Parramatta
Peter Evans	Castlereagh Cup
Regan Evans	Castlereagh Cup
Jack Fisher	Newcastle
James Fitzgerald	Penrith
William Flint	Penrith
Matthew Galvin	Group 6
Jack Gerrie	Balmain
Lachlan Gillies	Group 4
Matthew Gomes	Canterbury Bankstown
Lachlan Greenfield	Illawarra
Dylan Guptill	North Sydney
Nathan Guptill	North Sydney
Heather Hall	Canberra
Antuan Hampton	Central coast
Shanika Harpur	Group 11
Aden Hayward	Group 6
Taleasha Heitel	Group 7
Nathan Hillier	Newcastle
Tyler Hindle	Illawarra
Tobi Holder	Central Coast
Tate Hoobin	Newcastle

Name	Referees Association/Group
Bryce Hotham	Group 10
Joshua Hughes	St George
Brayden Hunt	Newcastle
Tallon Irons	South Sydney
Jayden Kastelan	Penrith
Ruby Keen	Illawarra
Olivia Lawne	Parramatta
Alex Le Geyt	Manly Warringah
Marco Levy	Parramatta
Tom Lidbury	Newcastle
Mitchell Lothian	Penrith
Indiana Manion	Cronulla Sutherland
Salvatore Marigliano	Cronulla Sutherland
Jesse McQuire	South Sydney
Jack McKay	Group 6
Ryan Micallef	Group 7
Gage Miles	Canberra
Luke Mulligan	Penrith
Logan Neilsen	Western Suburbs
Jacob Nelson	Group 2
Brendan Neville	Group 11
Nelson Pantelis	Cronulla Sutherland
Mitchell Pitscheider	South Sydney
Joel Pitscheider	South Sydney
Alexander Pruscino	St George
Callum Richardson	Central Coast
Liam Richardson	Canberra
Aidan Richardson	Canberra
Mitchell Robinson	Penrith
Curtis Robinson	Penrith
Brodie Rushby	Penrith
Jesse Sahyoun	Group 19
Reece Sammut	Penrith
Brayden Silvester	Group 4
Cody Simmons	Illawarra
Balunn Simon	Group 7
Blake Smoothy	Group 2
Jack Thornton	Northern Rivers
Jake Walsh	Manly Warringah
Bailey Warren	Group 7
Nicholas Willer	Group 2
Josh Williamson	Penrith
Siobhan Wilson	Group 3

NSWRL DEVELOPMENT SQUAD PRESENTATION NIGHT

The Development Squad Presentation evening was held at Canterbury Leagues' Club on 19th May 2023.

The evening recognises the efforts, performances and achievements of the Squad in this important stage of their refereeing career.

A number of significant awards were presented - highlighted by the presentation of the Michael Ryan Medal.

Congratulations to the recipients of all of the awards.



John Meehan with Mitchell Pitscheider



Development Squad Award Recipients 2023



Curtis Robinson Dennis Spagarino Trophy



Craig Matthews and Marco Levy



Yvette Downey (NSWRL) and Brayden Hunt



Brayden Hunt and Greg McCallum



Kelvin Jeffes and Jabril Daizli



Newly Grade Referees 2023
Joel Pitscheider Tate Hoobin and Mitchell Robinson



William Drury and Bailey Warren



Lachlan Greenfield and Steve Clapson



Pat Walsh and Nathan Hillier

COMMUNITY OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR – THE DENIS BRAYBROOK AWARD



William Drury - South Coast Group 7 RA

William has been a long-term member of the South Coast Group 7 Referees Association and has held a number of positions in the past and currently within the association and in positions throughout the regional areas of NSW. All of these positions have been in a volunteer capacity.

William always goes above and beyond the call of duty and continues to give his time generously, working tirelessly towards ensuring all referees are educated and supported so they continue to love the game.

William was President of the CRLRA up until the amalgamation between CRLRA and NSWRLRA of which he now sits as a Board Member of the merged association and is involved in the Coaching and Development alongside fellow Life Member and Director Steve Clapson.

Obtaining his ticket in 1988 William has been involved in a variety of volunteer positions. He has served South Coast Group 7 in many leadership positions and still does – particularly in recruitment and development as well as coaching and mentoring referees of all ages and abilities.

William held the roles of President of both South Coast Group 7 and the former CRLRA – latter a role he held for 10 years. He has continued to serve the game at grassroots level.

William Drury is a standout recipient of this prestigious award named in the honour of NSWRLRA Life Member and the inaugural NSWRL Referees Co-ordinator Denis Braybrook.



METROPOLITAN & REGIONAL ASSOCIATION REPORTS

BALMAIN REFEREES



The Blue-Ribbon Association certainly was busy during the 2023 season.

On any given weekend, Balmain members were spread across 13 or more grounds in the Balmain District and the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney (Balmain East) carrying a heavy load of appointments for a proportionally smaller Association.

But our members did what they always do which is give their best represent the Association with pride. The Association has a mix of experience on the field each weekend, from teenagers just starting their refereeing journey, former grade squad members and all the way up to the great Sean Hampstead still showing up week after week to give back to our game.

We were very fortunate to have former NRL Test referee and Balmain Referees Life Member, Matt Cecchin be available during the preseason and referee some A grade games at the Metro 9s tournament at Blackmore Oval.

When Matt took to the field a member of the crowd was heard to remark "Hey, we've got a real referee doing this game."

2023 saw Balmain district and Balmain East referee both Saturday and Sunday due to a marked increase in teams, particularly the Metro Cup competition and an increased number of women's rugby league games.

Additionally Balmain district had a huge increase in League Tag games particularly Under 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 age groups.

This has seen an impressive number of participants in games within our district.

This season also saw an increase in our refereeing numbers not only in Balmain district but also in the Eastern Suburbs which has seen both Waverley Oval & Burrows Park almost exclusively covered by referees who are resident in the Eastern Suburbs.

Of course to keep the wheels turning you need a cohesive, patient and diligent junior league Administrators and supportive Junior League Chairmen, namely Bob Tate (Sydney Roosters) and Trent Miller (Balmain).

I want to applaud the work done behind the scenes by the respective JL Administrators namely Tatum Sinclair-Harris (Sydney Roosters) and both Edward Stanton-Correia & Luke Wright (NSWRL/Balmain).

Sadly Edward received an offer to further his career in another field and thankfully Luke stepped in and seamlessly managed a daunting workload.

In her first year Tatum stepped into big shoes left by Kerry Mortimer who was promoted into the Sydney Roosters Pathway Department and now works almost exclusively with the Sydney Roosters Harold Matthews, Jersey Flegg, Harvey Norman and the Elite Academy squad members.

A lot of what we have done during the 2023 season would not have been possible without the generous support of our major sponsor, Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club.

This ongoing sponsorship has allowed us to not only outfit all our referees with both on field and off field apparel but also to upgrade our on-field communications equipment, so we were able to utilise our communications equipment on the majority of senior games each week both in Balmain and Balmain East districts.

To support our communications equipment, we arranged with NSWRLRA to have certain games videoed so that we could use that video for coaching of the referees as well as a discussion topic at our training nights.

This was made easier by subscribing to Hudl, a video service also used by NSWRL, which allowed our referees to log in and analyse their game via Hudl in the comfort of their homes.

For 2024 we are considering the purchase of a video camera, linked to Hudl, which would allow us to do our own video recording of selected games each week.

Association Director and Life Member Adam Sirianni continues to impress in the NSWRL graded squad and was at both Grand Final days this season assisting referees with their communications equipment, mentoring and coaching and generally supporting his fellow referees.

Liam Mills, Coaching and Recruitment Director has done an outstanding job in recruiting and supporting new referees as well as taking on the role of Gear Steward.

This season we welcomed 26 new referees - a great achievement.

Two members received Life Membership of the Association namely, Dean Tyler (Executive Officer) and Robert Gerrie (Association Trainer).

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

I congratulate all the award recipients for this season but in particular the inaugural recipient of the Tom McMahon award for the best performance by a junior referee in a Grand Final, Aiden O'Connor (Balmain East).

I have stressed where the referees primarily referee as it's important to recognise and acknowledge the contribution of these members.

We must thank our Referee Coaches who provide support and guidance for all our referees, which has allowed them to progress so well during this season.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to our Board of Directors, led by Sean Hampsted as Chairman for their ongoing support and their faith in me,

A special thank you must be extended to Liam Mills, Coaching Director, who stepped in to fill the role of Referee Manager when I was struck down by three (3) simultaneous auto immune viruses in late June.

CANBERRA DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES



We commenced the year with another increase in registered players in the local competitions which translated to an increase up to 165 games each weekend. It was a challenging year to appoint match officials to all games and a big thankyou to all our members who rose to the occasion, filling in with short notice and officiating in multiple games over three days each weekend, especially when some of those mornings involved games in what can be described as freezing temperatures. The year presented an opportunity for a number of members to progress to officiate at higher levels, which translated to some very high standard refereeing during the Finals Series.

Our Recruitment improved from 2022 with Thirty-One (31) candidates undertaking the Referees Foundation One course. This was double from 2022, however presented challenges in engagement and participation by those new members. Analysis showed two (2) were returning adult members due

to grandchildren now playing and were only engaged in the U7 - U9 age groups, two (2) were adults who wanted to "give back" to Rugby League and the remaining Twenty Seven (27) were aged from 13 to 18 with Twenty Three (23) still playing Rugby League and therefore refereeing needed to be scheduled around their playing times, where possible.

Again, we are lucky to have organisations such as the Canberra Raiders and Canberra Region Rugby League support our Association and assist with recruitment and development of referees. The support from the CRRL staff, especially General Manager Mark VERGANO and Chairman Gary GREEN cannot be under-estimated. Incidents involving unsavoury conduct by players, officials or spectators were swiftly dealt with by the League, sending a strong message that poor behaviour is not acceptable and match officials will be supported by them.

The Association conducted two Referees Exchanges in 2023, with Newcastle and Group 6 Referees. Gage MILES and Liam RICHARDSON travelled to Newcastle with Michael BAYLEY and Tristan BROOKER travelling to Group 6 to referee. All members gained valuable experience officiating in different groups with the members from Newcastle and Group 6 experiencing games in the Canberra competition.

Achievements

Billy PERROTT CRRL/Woodbridge Cup Open Ladies League Tag Representative game

Dave CHARMAN CRRL/Woodbridge Cup Open Men's Representative game

On the Representative front we had a Junior Representative Squad with referees in both Regional and Metro Squads. (Aidan RICHARDSON, Tristan BROOKER, Liam RICHARDSON, Heather HALL and Gage MILES). Congratulations to Liam RICHARDSON with his semi-final appointment and Aidan RICHARDSON and Gage MILES with their Grand Final appointments.

On the coaching front Katherine NIGHTINGALE represented the Association at the Women's National Championships and Matthew HALL at the NSW State CCC and CHS championships.

Congratulations to Ben CUMMINS who announced his retirement from the NRL with over 501 combined games. He has shown our Referees there is a pathway to success if you work hard and dedicate yourself. As an ambassador for Canberra Referees, we thank him for this and wish him the best in his retirement.

Congratulations to Phil HENDERSON on the year he has had in the NRL with Touch Judge appointments in the Preliminary Final and his State of Origin Appointments. The Association instituted a new perpetual award.

The Annual Awards Dinner and Life Member Presentation Night was well attended with the following awards presented. "Neville Norris" Shield - Rookie of the Year - Cooper SANDS

“Bruce Chapman” Shield – Most Improved Junior - Natasha KELLY

“Neville ‘Chief’ Harradine” Shield – Junior Encouragement - Patrick TRAYNOR

“Jack McKie OAM” Trophy – Most Improved Senior - Tristan BROOKER

“Alan Hodge” Shield – Senior Encouragement - Billy PERROTT

“Jim Mahoney” Shield – Outstanding Service to the Association - Andrew NIGHTINGALE

“Henderson Family” Shield – Most Improved Touch Judge - Jorja CHARMAN

“Keith Gegg” Shield – First Grade Touch Judge Shield - Luke BARROW & James CHARMAN

“Noel Bissett OAM” Shield – First Grade Referee Shield - Andrew NIGHTINGALE

Associate Life Membership - Chris CAHILL

Life Membership - Katherine NIGHTINGALE

The Association continued with strong sponsorship from Mayner & Cochrane, Appliance Repair Specialist to the Canberra Region, combined with sponsorship from the Canberra Raiders (Gungahlin Raiders Club) and grants from NSWRL Referees Assn. This has left our Association in a very stable financial position. We now look to identifying a new major sponsor from 2024 and continuing our existing arrangements with the other league organisations.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN REFEREES



Another season completed and wasn't it great to get through a whole season without interruption from the weather.

It was a busy season in Canterbury, culminating in 4 weekends of Grand Finals contested at Belmore Oval.

Unfortunately, we still face many challenges as a district in regard to behaviour towards referees and this season saw

our Association only recruit 4 members, whilst losing 11 of our 2022 recruits – very disappointing. This is an issue we continue to focus on as an Association and are continually looking to work with our Junior League to eradicate poor behaviour.

We enjoyed many social events throughout the year, including a revamped Life Members & Sponsors Luncheon mid-season, and our Blue and White Presentation Night in October which saw Kane Thorburn become the 90th Life Member of Canterbury Referees.

Our Association had a strong season with members representing in NSWRLRA Metro Development and Graded Squads. Congratulations to Nathan Loveday who was appointed as a Touch Judge for the Jersey Flegg Grand Final.

Our biggest achievement this season was most certainly Adam Gee. Wow what a year he had! Adam has been a consistent performer for many seasons in the NRL but 2023 was certainly his best, culminating in refereeing the 2023 NRL Grand Final, then most recently the Pacific Championships Final between Australia and New Zealand. We continue to be proud of Adam and all of his achievements.

Special thanks to the Board of NSWRLRA in particular Greg McCallum and Steve Clapson for their continued support of our Association.

Thank you to our Association sponsors who continue to be amazing supporters of our Association.

- Canterbury League Club
- Bankstown RSL
- Soneta Plumbing
- First National Daystar Real Estate
- Brickwood Homes
- Club Menangle

CASTLEREAGH LEAGUE REFEREES



Castlereagh League Referees Association has again had an enjoyable year. We had close to 50 members registered

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

many of whom who only joined to officiate in Junior League. Our Senior League ranks remain strong with 10 of us being committed to the weekly home and away competition. This is a significant commitment as there is extensive travel involved within our Group.

Early in the year Mark Watton moved on to become a Foundation Two Referee. Mark has worked hard over a number of years and is justifiably proud of this achievement. Congratulations go to Daniel Thornton (First Grade), Peter Evans (League Tag) and Ben Trudgett (Reserve Grade) on their appointments to Grand Finals at the end of the season. Veteran Wayne Burgess handled the Youth League Grand Final earlier in the year, which followed a shortened season due to the small number of teams.

Daniel Thornton, Peter Evans and Regan Evans also officiated in Grand Finals of the Barwon Darling Competition. It is of particular note that both Daniel and Regan refereed nearly every weekend in Barwon Darling as well as Castlereagh League, a commitment very few would make.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their efforts throughout the year and in particular thank Willy Barnes for his ongoing assistance and guidance.

CENTRAL COAST REFEREES



2023 saw a changing of the guard for the Central Coast Rugby League Referees Association. A core young group of

referees stood up and took accountability both on and off the field which led to season 2023 being a productive and enjoyable one.

We had our youngest ever group of Senior Grand Final referees in recent memory, with not one referee being over the age of 24. Ben Thompson (1st Grade), Deacon Cameron (Reserve Grade), Callum Richardson (Open Age), Harrison Moriarty (U/19's), Daisy Goodenough (Women's Tackle) and Josh Muddle (Women's League Tag) all performed fantastically and showed that the future of the CCRLRA is bright.

Our referee recruitment drive saw 23 new referees join the CCRLRA, which was great to see. A strong online marketing campaign, mixed with buy-in from the Junior clubs led to this fantastic result, and gives us a good building block for 2024.

We also saw 15 referees make the jump and complete their Foundation Referees Coaching course, something that was desperately needed as we hadn't had a course run for some time. We look forward to these coaches showing our new referees the way forward with their knowledge and guidance.

Off the field we implemented a number of gameday initiatives that we are very proud of. We partnered with local Gadigal artist Megan McCain in creating our first ever NAIDOC jersey, which was worn for all senior fixtures across Round 12. We also took part in Family of Leagues Crazy Sock round, which raised much needed money for those in our Rugby League family who are going through hard times. It was fantastic to see the members not only wear the socks for all fixtures across the 24th and 25th June, but also dig deep into their own pockets and raise an additional \$1020 which was donated straight to the Family of League.

We were also lucky enough to be awarded a grant from NSWRLRA to begin our next coaching initiative. Project Veo will allow our referees to see their game in a whole different way, allowing our coaches to track movement patterns and give coaching like never before at our level. Coaches will be able to cut clips, present slides and discover trends, while giving feedback to our referees to improve their game. We thank the NSWRLRA for their help with our project.

Not only did we see great support from our local leagues and governing bodies, but also from our sponsors. A huge thankyou to Diggers@the Entrance, Clearwater Plumbing, Lakes Podiatry and RNT for the continued support. We were also lucky enough to secure a Senior Grand Final Day sponsor in Bendigo Bank, to aid in the purchase of commemorative jerseys for our Senior Grand Final officials.

We hope to be able to use the traction of a fantastic 2023 to build into 2024 and make it our greatest year yet. On behalf of the CCRLRA we hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday period, and look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

CRONULLA SUTHERLAND REFEREES



Another great season for 2023. This season again saw Cronulla Referees Junior numbers continue to grow and it is most pleasing that we have had an influx in female referees with now 23 on board. This is a great achievement and is an indication of increased female participation across all sports and the status that the WNRL and League Tag.

Congratulations to our members Cameron Paddy, Mitch Currie, Damian Brady who continued strong performances when the opportunity arose in the grade ranks. Cameron officiated NSW Cup Grand Final & State Championship Touch Judge, with Mitch joining him on Grand Final Day in his role as touch judge for the NRLW Grand Final. Damian Presidents Cup Grand Final and was named Grade Referee of the Year. Along with this award Cameron was awarded Bill Harrigan Shield for NSW Cup Grand Final Referee and Doug Winton Award for contribution to the NSWRL association.

Cronulla was lucky enough to have strong representation in the NSW Metro Squad with five members, Salvatore Marigliano, Jaylen Chasle, Nelson Pantelis, Joshua Blackman and Indi Manion. Salvatore made his Harold Matthews Cup centre Debut. With Indi having the opportunity officiating the Women's National Championships in QLD, and Joshua running a touch line in the Malta v Italy Test Match. This experience in the Metro Squad also seen Salvatore, Jaylen and Josh make their Opens Men's Debut in the local district.

Locally our competition continues to grow with the need to appoint to 194 games each weekend. This has seen the

introduction of our full-time role of Referees Operations Coordinator which oversees the day to day running of the Association. Working closely with Cronulla Junior League, Joel Mani took on this role, Joel has been around refereeing for quite some time so was the perfect fit for this role and took our association to another level with appointments and coaching.

2 great events we had this year were the opportunity to train at Pointsbet stadium with a session run by NRL Referee Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski and former NRL Referee Tony Archer, this was initiated by the Cronulla Sharks and allowed an insight for some of our referees to chat with Ziggy and get feedback.

Our Combined training session with Canterbury and St George Referees seen over 90 members from the 3 districts come together with drills run by NRL Referees Ashley Klein, Belinda Sharpe, Adam Gee, Ben Cummins, Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski and Wyatt Raymond along with NSW High Performance Squad Referees Mitch Currie, Nathan Loveday, Cameron Paddy, and Brendan Mani. This session was great to see all three districts come together and mingle. The night was a huge success and will continue going forward.

We would like to recognise our Sponsors and thank them for their ongoing support, Tradie, Aramex, Zed n Zed Jewellers, KRGS Doors & our Charity Partner Gotcha4Life. Like all associations without the support of our sponsors and partners, we would struggle.

Finally, we would like to thank Cronulla Junior League, NSWRLRA, all other Associations that have supported us throughout the year, and to our members we thank you for continuing to do what you do.

GROUP 2 REFEREES



2023 saw 1024 games of rugby league officiated by 85 Group 2 Match Officials across 3 days each weekend. Under 15's and 16's was played on Friday nights and created a challenge as the games were scheduled from Southwest Rocks to the most Northern point of the region, Woolgoolga. This, being

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

a work night on occasions for members, caused some major availability issues, but as usual the members found a way to make this happen and several talented junior referees were elevated to their first international appointments.

Due a shortage in senior match officials, the Senior competition was split over both days of weekend. Members once again showed their commitment to the game of rugby league travelling to venues in Macksville on Saturdays and backing up to travel to venues in Grafton on Sundays, some 150km apart. The Grand Finals were held at Coffs Harbour International Stadium for the first time and created a great atmosphere. Congratulations to all members who received appointments. All represented the association proudly.

Appointments:

Javier house 11s, Aston Ramunno 12s, Carter Deveson 13s and Senior League Tag, Malcolm Keating 14s, Tamsyn Spear 16s League Tag, Nic Willer 15s, Jacob Nelson 16s, Nathan Grace 18s, Steve Gaddes Reserve Grade and Blake Smoothy 1st Grade.

A special congratulations to Blake Smoothy for achieving the First Grade Grand Final for the second consecutive year.

Three referees were selected into the regional referee development squad. Blake Smoothy ran multiple lines for both Andrew Johns and Laurie Daley Cups. Jacob Nelson was appointed to referee the opening Andrew John's cup game and ran multiple lines throughout the tournament. Nicholas was appointed to several centres for the Andrew John's cup and ran multiple lines throughout the tournament.

The success of the Group 2 Referees Association's season 2023 was reflected in 75 members and their guests attending the Annual Presentation Night hosted by The Coffs Hotel. Members and guests enjoyed an exceptional night thanks to the hard work of the Social Committee. Proud and worthy Award Recipients named.

Blake Smoothy was awarded Group 2 Referee of the Year and Association Member of the Year for his outstanding performance throughout the season earning him the 2023 First Grade Grand Final and for his tireless efforts in coordinating events, providing referee courses and securing financial backing from local businesses.

Aston Ramunno was awarded Group 2 Junior Referee of the Year for securing the highest junior appointment among his peers after an outstanding year of growth and skill development.

Tamsyn Spear was awarded Rookie of the Year after a breakout first year of refereeing. She earned her appointments to referee U16s League Tag fixtures throughout the season and achieved the Grand Final appointment in the same division in a Rookie Season.

Carter Deveson was awarded Most Improved Referee and made his debut into refereeing Senior League and the U18s

this season. He is a testament to the coaching efforts of the CMOs in the association and earned himself the Women's League Tag Grand Final at CEX Stadium.

A special award was presented to Nathan Grace who refereed his 300th First Grade Game in 2023. Nathan has refereed the most Group 2 Grand Finals in the history of the competition with a total of 13, eleven of which were back-to-back years. He has been a loyal member of the Group 2 Referees Association, serving as both Treasurer and more recently President and was awarded Life Membership for his contributions at the 2023 AGM.

GROUP 3 REFEREES



This year we ran 3 community courses, and the RISE program had a total of 42 new recruits, 41 males and 1 female.

These complemented the 83 returning officials bringing our total to 125 officials for the 2023 season.

Of our 125 officials, 4 were non active, 15 officiated senior games only, 87 officiated junior games only and 19 did both. We had several upgrades during the season which increased the senior ranks.

The association services 3 different leagues, Group 3 Senior League, Hastings League, and Group 3 Junior League. Even with the amazing number of officials and opportunities available, we still struggle to fill games.

Grand Final Referees for 2023

- First Grade - Rickey McFarlane
- Reserve Grade - Wayne Hughes
- Under 18's - Landon Blissett
- League Tag - David Balaam
- Hastings League - Grame McKinnon
- North Coast Women's - Tony Hardy

Major Achievements for 2023

Siobhan Wilson became the first female to officiate a men's first grade game in Group 3 Rugby League. Siobhan Wilson also represented the association at the:

- NSW Junior Representative Referee
- NRL Under 15 Championship CMO

Bev Adams

- NRL Women's CMO
- NSW High Performance CMO

Rickey McFarlane

- NSW High Performance CMO

Tony Hardy

- NSW CMO

GROUP 4 REFEREES



Group 4 Referees Association provides referees to Group 4 Rugby League from Under 6's right up to First Grade. We have 41 financial members registered and appointed on a weekly basis.

The Association has a long-standing relationship with our Group, which is second to none. This arrangement has been to the betterment of a rugby league partnership which has gone from strength to strength.

Season 2023

This season has seen many challenges with fulfilling all fixtures/ appointments due to the lack of senior members.

Travel is a concern within our group. With 3 hours travel each way from Tamworth to Moree (our extremities), it poses a possible safety concern. Also, the increasing cost of fuel is something that will adversely affect our members in the short to medium time frame.

Recruitment and Retention is an area that we can definitely improve upon.

We believe that, with consultation with the NRL DO, and the help from NSWRL this can happen.

Achievements for 2023.

2023 saw a great deal of achievements from our members. Lachie Gillies & Braydon Silvester were selected in the NSWRL Referees developments squad.

Matthew Roberts and Braydon Silvester received their first-grade debuts.

Oscar Pekins debut in the under 18's comp

Congratulations to all members appointed to the Grand Finals.

Grand Final appointments were as follows:

- First Grade: Referee M. Lace, Touch Judges. L.Brown, O.Perkins
- Reserve Grade: Referee; J. Brown, Touch Judges; M.Roberts,C.Dixon
- Under 18's: Referee; B. Silvester, Touch Judges; S.Pleffer, J.Smith
- League Tag: Referee; L. Gillies Touch Judges; B.Fulloon, Afonso

Braydon Silvester & Lachie Gillies were appointed to their first senior Grand Final. Congratulations is extended to them.

GROUP 6 REFEREES



2023 was a proud year for Group 6 Referees with the association celebrating its 75th season. The year kicked off with a success with us winning the Camden Australia day award for sport's achievement award.

As every association can relate to, recruitment was a tough task with the association bringing on 21 new members in 2023. We hope to increase this number in 2024 with some plans in place to do so. Training was very successful throughout the season with an average attendance of between 40-50 members on any given night. The high attendance assisted in sharing knowledge with all members.

On the field we entered the second year of the combined Macarthur competition. Our members were successful on the field throughout the season which resulted in some high standards of games.

NSWRL and NSWRLRA assisted with the combined competition for seniors by appointing Ken McNaught on to assist with appointments in our premier competition. This appointment was very successful with Ken sharing his wealth of knowledge with our members.

I would like to congratulate all our members on their grand final appointments. All were very much deserved with the below members taking out the highest games:

First Grade - Aaron Sheldrick

Reserve Grade - Matthew Galvin

16's Gold - Aden Hayward

12's Gold - Dean O'Brien

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

In the junior representative's arena Logan Neilsen, Jack McKay, Aden Hayward, Matthew Galvin and Tylar Dupond proudly represented Group 6 with Logan officiating as a tough judge in the SG ball grand final.

On the coaching front, we brought on 5 new foundation one coaches bringing our total number of coaches to 16 in our association.

On the 14th of October we celebrated our 75th season in style with a very successful annual gala. Total attendees were 133 and we would like to thank all our special guests that attended.

We would like to thank our 2023 sponsors Wests Group Macarthur, Your Family Tax Practice and My Choice and Care.

GROUP 7 REFEREES



2023 has seen the Group 7 Referees Association move in a different direction, with new board positions being filled and new members taking on director roles within the association.

We have worked tirelessly to build new structures which will allow the association to thrive for many years to come.

This season has seen a big spike in membership numbers, I was able to introduce new procedures which provided us with clearer data that will be an ongoing asset to the association. With previous years averaging approximately 80 members compared to this season reaching 129 members, I would like to thank Willy Barns for his assistance several times throughout the year running the course alongside myself, Tyron and Balunn.

I would like to give my first thanks to the Group 7 Rugby League clubs. You have all worked hard with us this season to better the game on the South Coast and our relationship with all clubs is stronger than ever, and we are looking forward to continuing to grow this relationship in the years to come.

Thank you to Ashton Sims and the Group 7 Rugby League Board for their support throughout the 2023 season. The amount of work all of the Group 7 Rugby League Board put into the competition is admirable and doesn't go unnoticed.

Thank you to our sponsors Cleary Bros (CB), H.Parsons Funeral Directors, Ulladulla Printing & Signage, C1 Speed Indoor Go-Karting & Laser-Tag, LiveItUp & Kiama Leagues Club.

Bringing four new major sponsors into our association for 2023 has been an achievement I am proud of and hope to continue to grow.

The Group 7 Referees Association are proud of its members efforts put into each and every weekend, with referees officiating 6+ hour days and visiting some 3+ grounds in one day.

The Association wishes to acknowledge all of its members who participated in Finals and Grand Finals for 2023. These officials worked hard all year to get a spot in the finals & what a fantastic Finals + Grand Finals it was, with minimal controversy coming out of the 4 weeks of football.

A milestone that doesn't happen often goes to Group 7 Referees Association Life Member William Drury who officiated his 600th grade game in 2023. This is a huge achievement and one that we are proud to recognise.

William also was honoured to receive the NSWRL Dennis Braybrook Award for Community Official of The Year in 2023, which is one of the highest-level achievements for an individual to receive.

Throughout the 2023 season I was honoured to assist NRLNT with guidance for their new board and give the opportunities for Group 7 Referees to attend Darwin to assist the referees in the NT who were struggling with numbers throughout the season. We are currently in the process of bringing more opportunities with NRLNT for a referee exchange program in 2024.

The Group 7 Referees Association and Illawarra Referees Association has worked closely this year on building the bridge between associations and lending a hand when needed. A thank you to all Illawarra and Illawarra Referees members for working on the relationship this season which is stronger than it's ever been.

Thank you to the NSWRLRA for all their assistance and guidance for the 2023 season. The guidance we receive allows us to show consistency as an association and do what's best for our members.

Thank you for another memorable year of Rugby League & we look forward to working closely with you all again in 2024 to continue to make Group 7 Rugby League the premier competition!

GROUP 9 REFEREES



The Group 9 Referees Association Inc. (Group 9 RA) provides referees and touch judges for the Group 9 Rugby League and Group 9 Junior Rugby League; and is based in the Riverina Region of NSW; and includes the cities of Wagga Wagga and Albury and Wodonga; and the towns of Adelong, Batlow, Boorowa, Cootamundra, Gundagai, Harden- Murrumburrah, Junee, Temora, Tumut, Tumbarumba and Young.

Since the Group 9 RA was established in 1927; there have been 20 instances of Life Membership being awarded to the following persons for their outstanding service; commitment and dedication to the Group 9 Referees Association Inc.

- 2023 Mick Kirkman
- 2023 Ben Whitby

During 2023, Group 9 RA referees and touch judges officiated in a number of pre-season trial games, including the Rugby League games of the annual West Wyalong Knockout Rugby League Carnival, which is held on the last weekend in February, and the Tumut 9's RL games; the normal Group 9 RL competition and Final Series games; the normal competition games and Final Series games of the Group 9 Junior RL games at the various game venues; where necessary at Schoolboys RL and Leaguetag games including the annual Hardy Shield RL competition involving teams from the numerous Secondary High Schools across Wagga Wagga ; and the Trent Barrett Shield RL Gala days and the Mortimer Shield RL and Leaguetag competition days for the numerous Primary schools in the Riverina Region.

The long-standing Annual Riverina Schoolboys Football Carnival was again held at Junee on the first Saturday in August 2023. The Carnival featured a significant number of Group 9 RA referees in control of the numerous games played on the day. During 2023, Group 9 RA referees again officiated at an increasing number of Women's Tackle/9's and Leaguetag carnivals held at Wagga Wagga/Albury/Harden and Temora; and the newly formed Girls Under 13 Rugby League tackle games held at various Group 9 RL venues during the latter part of the 2023 season. Group 9 RA Referees officiated in a number representative RL and Leaguetag and Women's Tackle games during 2023. Congratulations to the Group 9 RA referees and touch judges

who were appointed to and officiated in the numerous Grand Final games across Group 9 RL and JRL in 2023.

Pre-season fitness training and then the weekly fitness training sessions on a Wednesday night in Wagga Wagga involving senior and junior referees were a feature of season 2023; coupled with a significant effort in the coaching and development of all Group 9 RA referees and coaching match officials; including the new referee recruits; with increased work to promote and implement the knowledge of the Laws of the Game to emphasise safety and good conduct within the game of Rugby League. In addition, to increase the knowledge of the NRL Code of Conduct, with some simple rules that assist in delivering a safe and positive environment to everyone involved in the game; coupled with an increased awareness to have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and violence.



For Season 2023, there was a significant increase in the recruitment and retention of available referees across Group 9 RA to cater for the increasing number of games now being played - Rugby League and Ladies/Girls Leaguetag; coupled with Ladies Tackle. During 2023, there were 228 Group 9 RA referees registered on the NRL MySideline National Referee Database; with a large increase in the number of female match officials; officiating in games; making up approximately 31% of the total registrations. In 2023, there was an increased number of Foundation 1 Referee courses held at various locations across the Group 9 RL and JRL area and at various dates during the season. In addition, the NRL RISE program produced several new Group 9 RA referees due to the direction taken that all RISE program participants must undertake and complete a Foundation 1 Referee course. In 2023, there was again a concentrated effort to involve some of the junior league referees in undertaking touch judge and referee Leaguetag duties in senior Group 9 RL games at the venue in their home towns, such as Albury, Gundagai, Junee, Temora, Tumut, Wagga Wagga and Young; with outstanding results and now a number of these junior referees have become established touch judges for appointment to Group 9 RL senior games; particularly in the lower grade and Leaguetag games.

During season 2023, there were several achievements by Group 9 RA members as follows: -

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

- Well known Group 9 RA referees – Mick Kirkman and Ben Whitby were awarded **Life Membership** of the Group 9 Referees Association Inc. for their long standing and outstanding service as an Executive Member (Ordinary Member); Referee/Touch Judge and Coaching Match Official and their ongoing actions in the recruitment of new senior/junior referees – both male and female; coupled with the coaching and development of all referees.

- In 2023, Group 9 Rugby League celebrated 100 years and the Group 9 RA members were involved in several events to celebrate this historic feat as follows: -

1. Group 9 RL Centenary Dinner at Harden Country Club on Monday, 13 February 2023.
2. Group 9 Centenary Luncheon on Friday, 28 April 2023 at the Range Function Centre, Wagga Wagga.
3. Eric Weissel Medal Best and Fairest Presentation Function on Wednesday, 6 September 2023.

- Confirmation from the NSWRLRA that as part of the 2023 Development Squad Referee Awards: -

1. The Andrew Johns Cup Grand Final Referee was awarded the **Pat Walsh Trophy**.

Pat Walsh being a Group 9 RA Life Member and well known former long-standing Group 9 RA referee and Coaching Match Official; and still contributes service to the Group 9 RA in season 2023.

At the 2023 NSWRLRA Life Members Reunion and Presentation Luncheon Day, held in the Steve Waugh Lounge, Victor Trumper Stand, Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday, 7 October 2023, Pat Walsh was awarded the prestigious **Eric Cox Medal with Greg McCallum**.

2. The Laurie Daley Cup Grand Final Referee was awarded the **Tony Young Memorial Trophy**. Tony Young was a Group 9 RA Life Member and a well-known and very long-standing member, referee, coaching match official and even up to his death several years ago was still active in the recruitment/retention/ coaching and development of all referees, especially the new and the younger referees.

- Well known Group 9 RA member – Toby Popple selected in and playing for the NSW Country and then the NSW State Wheelchair RL teams for 2023. Toby Popple was named in the All-Australian team following a superb campaign for the NSW-ACT team at the Wheelchair AFL National Championships in Tasmania. In addition, Toby Popple was selected in the train-on squad for the Wheelaroos for a proposed tour of the United States only to learn later that the upcoming tour had been postponed.

- Group 9 RA referees were prominent in the various Round Recognition programs such as Women in League; Anzac Day remembrance; NAIDOC Week and Honour and Respect

recognition; and with the annual “RED DAY” Mental Health/ Heart Research promotion day event at Temora.

- Group 9 RA member – Isaac Cornell established himself as a regular Group 9 RL 1st Grade Referee during the 2023 season. A very promising young referee and it will be interesting to watch his progress in season 2024.
- Group 9 RA female referees – Sarah Jane Muir and Amalee Muir officiating at the Katrina Fanning Cup games in 2023.
- It was a major concern that the annual Representative RL Kelly Cup games between Group 20 RL and Group 9 RL did not happen in 2023.
- For 2023, Tony FLETCHER, was again appointed to the position of the Group 9 RL Director of Referees; and his input, commitment, enthusiasm, knowledgeable advice and assistance when provided to the appointed Group 9 RA referees and touch judges at the game venues and weekly fitness training sessions on a weekly basis was well received. The appointed Group 9 RL CMOs in season 2023 were Pat Walsh and David Cullum; coupled with valuable input from Kevin Forde – NSWRL Director and Mick Kirkman/Scott Muir and Ben Whitby.

Group 9 RA **sponsors** for season 2023 were as follows: -

- HUME Bank – Albury and Wagga Wagga.
- STEEL SUPPLIES – Wagga Wagga.
- McDONALDS – restaurants at Wagga Wagga, Temora and Leeton.
- JOSS Group – a major Construction and Facility Maintenance Company - Albury and Wagga Wagga and across the Riverina region and Northeast Victoria.

Group 9 RA is appreciative of the support and financial contribution from these long standing and valuable sponsors; most have committed to long term sponsorship agreements. Their sponsor logos feature on the jerseys and shorts worn by the Group 9 RA referees.

Group 9 RA members who were NSWRL Regional referee representatives for 2023 were – Isaac Cornell – Referees. Scott Muir – MDC/PGC.

At the Group 9 RA Annual Presentation Function held in September 2023 at the Gardens Function Centre, Wagga Wagga, involving the Wagga JRL Referees and the Group 9 RA senior referees, the following awards were presented: -

Wagga JRL Referees: -

- Most Consistent Mini Referee – Elijah GANNON-PEARSON.
- Most Consistent Mod Referee – Jett SPENCER.
- Encouragement/Dedication Award – Rick CINI.
- Most Improved Referee – Lachlan WALSH.
- Most Consistent Leaguetag Referee – Lylah HOWARD-JENKINS.

- Most Consistent International Referee – Amalee MUIR.

Group 9 RA Referees: -

- Referee of the YEAR – Ben WHITBY.
- Most Improved Referee – Sarah Jane MUIR.
- Tony Young Memorial Encouragement Award – Cody PIPER.
- President’s Award – Mick KIRKMAN.
- Senior Referee Encouragement Award – Sam WENT.
- Leo McCarthy Leaguetag Referee of the Year – Myles CORNELL.
- Kathryn Young Ladies Referee of the Year – Lylah HOWARD-JENKINS.
- Touch Judge Team of the Year – Jamie BENSON and Dwayne RYAN.
- The Warren “Pewter Mug “Barclay Award – Cecil John “CJ” LANG.
- Special Presentation Award for Service and Dedication – Tony FLETCHER.
- Group 9 RL Referee of the Year – Ben WHITBY.
- Group 9 RL Emerging Referee – Myles CORNELL.

CONGRATULATIONS to all award winners for season 2023.

The success of the 2023 season can be contributed to the continued hard work of the Group 9 RA referees and members across the numerous locations of Group 9 RL and Group 9 JRL. We look forward to building on the success of this season and aim to continue fulfilling a leading role with refereeing duties in Group 9 RL in the Greatest Game of All; and to ensure that the Group 9 RA continues to grow in all aspects on and off the field.

We wish you all good fortune, success and the best for Season 2024.

GROUP 10 REFEREES



Season 2023 started like most, short on numbers across the board. However, with some hard work, numbers improved mainly in the junior side on 2022 levels and not so much in seniors.

This season we ran 5 new referee courses throughout Group 10, putting through 45 new referees. Our season total of referees in Group 10 had us come in at 102 members - down on last season but still a healthy membership.

With the inception of the Peter McDonald Premiership competition, which involved all grades this season from 1st grade through to League Tag, even with Group 10 and Group 11 referees combined we struggled each week to fulfil all grades but somehow did. This was only possible with most referees doing both Saturday and Sunday games and with that resulting in 3 games each day.

The Peter McDonald premiership competition seems to be getting stronger across all grades and with that Group 10 referees controlled the 1st grade and reserve grade grand finals with Anthony Pond doing his maiden 1ST Grade GF - congrats Anthony.



Nick McGrath did the Reserve Grade GF and Simon Hartis from Group 11 doing the 18s and Brodie Easy from Group 11 doing the League Tag. Congratulations to all.

Some personal achievements across the 2023 season include:

- Bryce Hotham continuing his junior reps appointments.
- Anthony Pond was invited to participate in an exchange to referee in Townsville QLD. He did their A grade 1st v 2nd and from all reports he got raving reviews for his performance.
- Nick Lander receiving the Group 10 Referee of the Year award, with this year’s award presented by NRL Referee Ash Klein.
- Anthony Pond receiving the Glenn Rose award for the 1st Grade Grand Final Referee.
- Nick McGrath received his Life Membership for his outstanding service.

Once again, we used mostly junior referees throughout the junior semifinal / grand final series which again this season was a great success. Touch judges all juniors - Mason

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

Edgerton (Orange), Issac Clarke (Orange) and Cathryn Brown (Orange) all assisted well, with a few seniors thrown in to help in the older age groups.

This is great for development of the younger referees to gain confidence moving into the senior ranks in the future. Congratulations to:

- U/11 Charlie Gallen - Mudgee
- U/12 Hayden Sellman - Bathurst
- U/13 Nick Lander - Bathurst
- U/14 Ray O'Brien - Forbes
- U/15 Stuart Halsey - Bathurst
- U/16s Kaiden Cole - Canowindra



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our referees for the solid effort you put in this year and I look forward to seeing all again on the park in 2024.

GROUP XI REFEREES



From a committee perspective, we struggled to fill all our positions on the executive. A sign of the times with a reduction in our member base and a busy schedule of members meant that we could only fill 3 of the 5 positions.

On the field, the 2023 season was a successful one for both senior and junior leagues. In the senior grades we participated in the 2nd year of the Peter McDonald Premiership (PMP). This year the competition expanded to incorporate reserve grade and senior league tag which seemed to be a much smoother process.

We believe the relationship with Group 10 referees association for the combined participation in the PMP was exceptionally positive and we look forward to working with them in the 2024 season.

From the associations perspective, the benefit of the PMP is that it gives our members an opportunity to referee within the boundaries of another association (Group 10 in this instance) and gives greater exposure to a wider number of players.

Our junior league referees had another strong year in our respective competitions (Lachlan & Dubbo junior rugby leagues) with several referees continuing to develop and will hopefully push through to the senior ranks in the coming years.

Recruitment

As always with the Group X1 referees' association covering such a large area it is always difficult to implement strategies to assist in the recruitment of new members. Both our junior leagues did a fantastic job bringing on a lot of new junior members which holds our association in good stead for years to come. We had a few members transfer in and out of the associations which is consistent with prior years.

Achievements of any members

Shanika Harpur represented the association in the junior representative program.

Simon Hartas (Under 18's) & Brodie Easey (League Tag) refereed in the PMP grand finals.

Tim McDougall was awarded the John Acheson Memorial Award for the referee that has gone above and beyond. This was voted on by our members.

Max McGuire-Allan was the recipient of the NSWRLRA Jack O'Sullivan Award for his outstanding contribution to school carnivals in 2023.

GROUP 16 REFEREES



Our season started looking quite healthy, even though Neil Baker retired Braiden McIntosh and Mackenzie Baker returned.

From there it went downhill somewhat, Shannon Shepherdson left for the NT, Zac Considine moved to Melbourne, Shannon Castle moved to Warragamba and Phil Astill decide to play instead of referee.

Thankfully we had some good young referees coming through, although not quite ready for the higher grade they were thrown in the deep end and survived until we sent them to Bombala one weekend.

Due to the behaviour of one team and the subsequent Judiciary hearings we lost another referee who was starting to perform quite well in first grade.

We managed to get through the season with the referees we had left and the return of Neil Baker to help out.

Then disaster struck again we lost Braiden for 8 weeks with a very badly sprained ankle, thankfully he made it back in time for the last two rounds and the finals.

Referees who improved immensely were Daytona Porter

and Calissa Badulovich, Mackenzie Baker with Rory McAlpin reaching and looking good in first grade but alas not for long.

When the final series was in full swing watching all the referees perform it was quite pleasing.

The grand finals were refereed with great control, the under 18's going into extra time and first grade late into the second half before a result was assured.

The numbers of referees remained steady with the majority only available to control games within the junior league.

Our association would like to thank both the Group 16 board and the clubs for both their patience and assistance throughout the 2023 season

We are hoping for a great 2024.

GROUP 20 REFEREES



We kicked off the year with an interesting start, meeting with the group early on in the year to table some concerns.

Through development, Matt and Tim were successful again this year in recruiting more junior referees than the association has ever had. We totaled 82 referees/ volunteers this year and have seen a lot of talent pushing through.

This season saw Group 20 Referees try new things whilst respecting the old ways of country rugby league. This season we celebrated many firsts. Our first female referee to officiate a senior game was Tiarra Hardwick, who controlled U16s Lakes vs Black and Whites. Both teams showed a great level of respect, and they should be commended for their efforts. All Senior referees on the 25th of June supported Rugby League Wellbeing with supporting Crazy Sock round. Our officials also assisted in the PCYC Nations of Origin for the first time in Sydney. Shaun and Tiarra gained valuable experience and received great feedback from Gavin Badger and the NSW Rep Coaches. We also debuted many referees and touch judges into the senior system. Congratulations to

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

Shaun, Fred, Lindsay and Nick on beginning your journey in Group 20 Seniors. With respect to trying new things nothing can compare to the effort made by our stalwart referees who continue to succeed and make the Appointment Panels decisions very hard each week. Congrats to all those who moved up grades this year, your effort and determination has not gone unnoticed, and we appreciate your hard work. Finally, we need to acknowledge our retiring champion, Max Biles. Max will unfortunately be hanging up his whistle after the games this weekend while he awaits reparative surgery on a lingering shoulder injury. We wish Max all the best and congratulate him on his 100 First Grade games for Group 20 and almost 700 games officiated in his career.

We also say goodbye to Matt Gatt who we have had alongside us the past few years, Matt was the head of the appointments panel and then completed his course to run Referees through courses.

Leading into the Group 20 awards night we had 4 awards given out on this night by our executive-

Max Biles taking home Referee of the year and also for officiating 100 first grade games.

David Milne taking home most improved Referee of the year.

Nick Hodgkin taking home rookie of the year.

We would like to thank everyone for their support this year and we look forward for what the future holds for this association.

GROUP 21 REFEREES



Reflecting on the 2023 season, it was great to see the rebound and recovery of the Group 21 rugby league community as we

enjoyed a successful year of rugby league.

2023 was a busy season on and off the field and I would like to thank each of our members on their tireless efforts to officiate games each week. Of particular note is the extensive travel throughout the Group and the travel to multiple venues each day / weekend by the senior referees. We welcomed a number of new referees to the association and have plans in place to further recruit members into the 2024 season.

To our sponsors we thank you for your continued unwavering support that allows us to subsidise costs to each member for training, uniforms, and the like. Your support throughout 2023 and commitment to further support us in 2024 and beyond is most appreciative. We thank the management of the Muswellbrook RSL Club, Persas and TJM Cleaning for your ongoing support. In 2024 we welcome our newest sponsor Components Only. Thank you to the management and employees of each sponsor.

To each of our members, your efforts are duly recognised with your weekly officiating. It was pleasing that we were able to full fill senior appointments. Congratulations to each member that was appointed to a finals game and those appointed to Grand Finals. Each of the Grand Finals was officiated exceptionally well with all the talk post games on the performance of the teams and not on decisions made by officials. I received many compliments throughout the final's series on the high level of officiating and competence of our officials. In addition, with the Group 21 Junior Rugby League affiliated with Newcastle Junior Rugby League, we supplied officials to semi-finals and grand finals. This was particularly pleasing to officiate in another Association, network with fellow referees and the identification of improvement areas that can be initiated in Group 21. One of our junior referees was recognised for outstanding refereeing and participated in the Northern Tigers referee academy. We aim to have additional referees participate in the academy to help develop their officiating capabilities.

To aid with building culture within our Association, our Social Secretary was pro-active with organising events for our members. Events organised include, go-karting, dinners, after game functions, golf and our annual dinner which were well attended by our members. Plans are in place to further build on cultural improvements in the coming seasons. Additionally, we have been working closely with the senior and junior clubs to strengthen relationships and deliver better outcome by all of our referees.

Lastly, I'd like to thank each Group 21 club, including their executive, players, managers, administrators, ground managers, support staff and other volunteers that help deliver the game. We will continue to build on the successes of 2023.

ILLAWARRA DISTRICT REFEREE'S



As the season comes to an end, it is time to reflect back on the season that was. Filling the role of Secretary for the first time was challenging to say the least. Thank you to the Life Members who reached out with words of encouragement at times when I needed it most, especially Steve Brown, Kevin Riolo and Mark Crampton.

The season started with a rocky start but as we found our feet things started to move along. This season saw the first year of the NRL's rollout of their "player framework", which affected our first intake of referees as the courses were delayed. Once we got the green light we ran our first course at Berkeley Sports, with a decent intake and the ability to conduct any further workshops ourselves. We ran a second intake later in the season, again with a decent intake.



The season as a whole was a good season, with no rounds cancelled due to wet weather and it was great to have a few gala days back. Our referees, as a whole, performed extremely well, and it was good to see that they all had each other's backs throughout the season. Our referee reporting improved during the season, with referee's becoming more comfortable reporting any game day issues, other than the usual send-off reports. In the boys 13-16 years age groups we saw a dramatic rise in the amount of Code of Conduct Breaches by 200%, across the merged Illawarra and G7 competition.

As a result, and with consultation with the IDJRL, we rolled out our GoPro's at Junior fixtures, with what I would say was a moderate success. Whilst it didn't stop all behaviour, it did help get the message out there that the league and referees are united in stopping this behaviour.

I would especially like to thank Blake Edwards, from the League for his support throughout the season. Being an ex-member of our association, Blake understands how it all works and he is very easy to deal with. Thanks to the Referees Manager, Mick Dupille for your efforts throughout the year. Also, thanks to our Board of Management representative, Mark Crampton for your support and guidance to our Executive. It has been invaluable.

The season finished well for the Association with Lachlan Greenfield being graded by NSWRLRA(#1037) into the NSW squad, and well deserved it was. And also, our hard-working treasurer joining his wife as a Life Member of the Association, congratulations Michael Chin. .



I personally would like to thank all the members that have helped through this season to get things done. I would also like to thank all our junior members for your professional attitudes each week and the respect you have displayed to other members, officials and teams. Without any of you we would not have had a successful season like this. I look at our group of juniors and see a formidable squad that have formed into a tight knit group. Our current batch of juniors makes me look forward to season 2024 with bated breath in anticipation of what can be achieved.

I would also like to acknowledge my nominator for the nomination and the executive for accepting it for our most prestigious award the Ned David Award. Like everyone else that has won this before me I am honoured and graciously accept this award, but what I do for the association is what I believe you do for your football family. .

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued



And finally, I would also like to thank my actual family, and all our families, for their support and patience this season. To our partners that we abandon every Saturday and some Sundays from March through to September to focus on the “other kids”. To all our families and members, I wish the best for the off season and look forward to your return in 2024.

MANLY-WARRINGAH REFEREES



It is hard to recall a footy season on Sydney's Northern Beaches that had as few disruptions as this year. Forfeits were at a minimum and even the wet-weather avoided the

weekends, except for one Sunday. The booming sounds of Rugby League referee whistles were consistently reverberating around the district.

Seasons often begin in the classroom and after a drop off in active referees coming out of the COVID affected years, a much needed recruitment drive was held to ensure the Association was able to cover the expanding Junior League competition.

26 eager young Rugby League enthusiasts tackled the laws of the game in the first course offering held at Brookvale Oval. Several others joined in subsequent weeks, so by season's end the Association had 30 first-year graduates, who will hopefully remain in the ranks for years to come.

Rob Bowen from the NSWRL was a pivotal part of this success and his support from enquiry to delivery was professional and valuable. NSWRL's Steve Clapson was also a key contributor to our coaching and development objectives, from providing sound advice in the purchase of communications equipment, to watching and filming our referees, and offering to help with everything in between.

Associations run on countless people who generously give up their time and do not ask for much (if anything!) in return. Todd Smith once again juggled his busy NRL commitments to serve on the board, assist in training and coach referees. Zac McDonald did an exceptional job in mentoring junior referees week in, week out. Chairman Keith Povah went above and beyond again to ensure the smooth operations of the Association, while Jake Walsh continued to shine, and was recognised for his contribution this year by winning one of the Association's most prestigious awards.

On the field Jake completed the majority of the Junior Reps year in the middle, culminating with his second Harold Matthews grand final touch judge appointment and his fourth reps grand final appointment overall. Alex Le Geyt also cemented his credentials in the squad after two years. Locally, Jayson Elkins became the most capped A-Grade grand final referee by officiating his sixth decider. While Life Member Brien Gately brought up his 50th year of membership.

The Association also secured a new gold sponsor at the start of the season. Manly Leagues Club, joined platinum sponsor, Axia Office and silver sponsor, McDonald's in providing such valuable financial support. Likewise, the assistance of the NSWRL Referees Association by way of grants and advice ensures the presence of Rugby League and its referees on Sydney's Northern Beaches is as bright as the weekends were this season.

NEWCASTLE COALFIELDS REFEREES



2023 has been an enjoyable year on a number of levels both personally and as an association and one that has been highly successful. Congratulations to all those who were award winners, grand final officials, made debuts or officiated this year, it takes all of you to keep our association going and service all our games.

This year saw 200 members register on the database, which is a massive increase on previous years and was greatly needed with the increase in football we cover. Massive shout out to John Taylor, Brandon Vidler, Dan Ebert, Erica Locking, Kurt Grogan and everyone else involved in our retention and recruitment efforts for 2023.

I would like to acknowledge our main sponsors; The Good Guys, Bentleys Tax and Wallsend Diggers and ACD Trade. Without the support of our sponsors our association would not function. Thank you especially to the team at Wallsend Diggers for their support in organising meetings and rooms, especially last-minute changes. We announced on Presentation Night that Total Tools were our new major sponsor for the next three years (2024-2026). I am grateful for the commitment by Chantelle Fitzsimmons and Total Tools to our Association. It speaks volumes that two of our previous major sponsors go onto other businesses and then choose to continue in partnership with our Association. We are very lucky.

On behalf of all members and Life Members, a huge congratulations to our newest Life Member, Brandon Vidler #153. Brandon has contributed enormously to our Association over his 10 years as a member, holding roles on the Board of Management for most of those years. On a more tragic note, NCRLRA lost Life Member #4, John (Boozer) Bowles. John had an extensive alliance with our game, as a player, coach, administrator and later as a Referee into a Judiciary Panel Member. RIP.

Congratulations and a job well done to our NSWRL Development Squad members: Brodie Barry, Sam Daley, Jack Fisher, Nathan Hillier, Tate Hoobin, Brayden Hunt & Tom Lidbury.

From this squad, a few went on to Representative Grand Finals as head Referees or Touch Judges.

- Brayden Hunt- SG Ball Grand Final Head Referee
- Nathan Hillier – Andrew Johns Cup Head Referee
- Tate Hoobin – Country Championships Touch Judge
- Brody Barrie – Andrew Johns Cup Touch Judge
- Tom Lidbury – Laurie Daley Cup Touch Judge

These are quite prestigious appointments, and you all did the NCRLRA proud. Further to this, Tate Hoobin was awarded a place in the NSW Grade Squad about a quarter of the way through the season and is Squad Member #1035. At the conclusion of the season, Brayden Hunt was announced as being given a place in the NSW Grade Squad for 2024, as Member #1036, along with winning the highly coveted award of Junior Representative Referee of the Year, which was presented at the NSW Brad Fittler Medal Awards Night. Congratulations to both Tate and Brayden, and we know you will have success at the next level.

In a first for a very long time, we were able to facilitate Referee Exchanges. Sam Daley, Brody Barrie and Tom Lidbury braved the cold in Canberra to officiate matches, whilst we hosted two Canberra officials who were given a taste of Newcastle Grade at the Graveyard in Kurri! Later in the season, we also had Lachlan Lucas, Dom Picton & Mitch Piller travel to a few ovals around North Sydney to experience their Junior League and A Grade Competition. We also had three of their officials referee fixtures at Cessnock. From all reports, our 3 NCRLRA officials did a great job over a long day.

Thank you to our members, you volunteer your time and expend your energy and without that dedication none of this happens. Thank you to the clubs and teams of the Hunter, your support of our officials is greatly appreciated.

All the best for the festive season and we look forward to seeing you all next year and working towards a successful 2023 season!

NORTH SYDNEY REFEREES



ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

Season 2023 was certainly an interesting and encouraging one for the North Sydney Referees. This year again saw strong growth in new member numbers and considerable progress both on and off the field from several of our promising junior referees, many of whom stepped up when required on account of the absence of one or two of our more experienced referees (both to junior representative squads and to ill health). Our growth continued to go hand in hand with junior numbers and the implementation of several exciting new measures, including that of the referee's development squad, has seen improvements in retention rates.

We congratulate Mr. Chris Hopkins on being elected our Association's 40th Life Member. Chris has been a member of the North Sydney Referees for over 40 seasons, having started as a junior referee. His dedication to his own performance both on and off the field, and his drive for self-improvement as a referee saw Chris reach junior representative level with the NSWRLRA, refereeing SG Ball Final in 1983. Chris has won the Erle Carroll Trophy for refereeing the highest grade grand final (A grade) in 2012 and 2014 and was our Director of Referees Development for seasons 2014 and 2015. As an aside, it's largely thanks to Chris' nomination and my inability to "jump backwards" quickly enough that I now find myself as the Executive Officer for my 7th straight season. Once again, congratulations Chris on this outstanding achievement.

News from around the grounds this season included:

1. We formed our own internal Development Squad for this season, and it was a resounding success. Members attended additional training session once a month and took part in an exchange with Newcastle Referees. One session involved NRL Squad Members Todd Smith and Wyatt Raymond who gave our Squad an insight of life at the top level as well as what is required to get there.
2. Another success was our exchange with Newcastle Referees. James Leane being appointed to a Denton Cup Reserve Grade fixture between Cessnock and Kurri Kurri while Nick Hartgrove and Tyler Armstrong officiated local matches in Kurri Kurri. Our thanks to NSW Referees for assisting with covering the cost for our Exchange through our Coaching and Development Grant. In turn, we hosted Mitchell Piller, Lachlan Lucas and Dominic Picton. The lads not only enjoyed themselves but did an outstanding job on the field. We hope to continue with this relationship next year.
3. Brian Barry again tops our list for news - in this case literally, having made an appearance on Channel 9's 6 pm news service, in an article about the NSW Referees! As is always the case with Brian, he spoke most candidly about that infamous incident in the Grand Final replay of 1977 (where Brian was forced off the touch line by means of an errant apple thrown from the SCG Hill). Unsurprisingly

the poor interviewer appeared somewhat taken aback by Brian's candour, although I suspect very little editing was required!

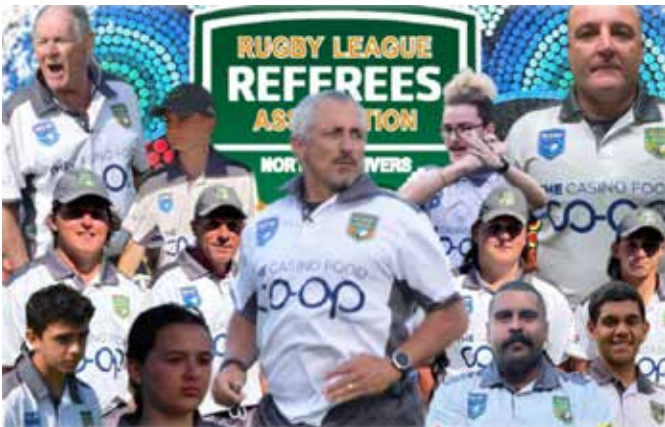
4. Our Director of Referees Development Mr Steve Tulinsky was recognised by the Men of League Foundation as the club volunteer of the season for his magnificent efforts with the junior referees (and some of us seniors as well I might add) and his time and energy has resulted in several of those juniors refereeing in much higher age groups than at the start of season 2023. We can only hope that Steve continues to bring his drive and passion for referee development in the seasons to come.
5. The season launch was once again held at Magpies Waitara and was again a big success, with those in attendance enjoying the evening.
6. On the field, our three junior representative squad members (Dylan, Nathan Guptill and Bailey Clark) continued to represent Norths Referees and their ongoing growth and development provides encouraging signs that another from our ranks will make it to grade, hopefully soon. We also hope that several of our junior members in the development squad won't be far off joining Dylan and Nathan at junior representative level soon.
7. North Sydney Referees At NRL level, Jon Stone once again did North Sydney proud, and Jon continues to provide excellent support for our junior members both on and off the field. Four of our Referees (Tyler Armstrong, Jessee Jenkins, Nick Hartgrove and Jordan Dawkins) attended the NRL Grand Final Referee Announcement event at Accor Stadium. This was a very well run event with all attendees being put through various drills and learning about what goes on behind the scenes.
8. Awards-wise, Jordan Dawkins was selected as this year's recipient of the Vince Smith Junior Encouragement Award for season 2023. Jordan has impressed over the past two seasons and his enthusiasm for refereeing is a joy to see. The Michael Quailey Trophy, for the most outstanding contribution by a junior referee for this season, was again awarded to Tyler Armstrong, whose outstanding efforts were impossible to ignore. The Betts Stone Murray Trophy for the most improved Junior Referee over 2023 was hotly contested, with several juniors being nominated. However, it was determined that Heath Flower showed the most improvement over 2023 and is certainly a worthy winner.

All our commitments to the Junior League were met although we had to receive assistance from Parramatta Association on a couple of occasions. This was despite increases in teams in the Tag and Open Age competitions.

After last season when we lost 232 matches to washouts, this year saw every scheduled match played, something that has not happened for many years.

To all our referees, coaches, members, wives / husbands, family, and supporters I again say thank you for all you have done for us members over the season. We do what we do, and we are who we are thanks to your support (and patience I might add).

NORTHERN RIVERS REFEREES



The 2023 season has been a massive effort from all stakeholders of the game in the Northern Rivers, especially all match officials. The 2023 season saw over 2000 games held within the Northern Rivers region with over 1000 Group 18 Junior Rugby League games, 700 Group 1 Junior Rugby League games and over 400 Northern Rivers Regional Rugby League games in addition to numerous amounts of Club trials, Lismore Aboriginal knockout, Junior Representative trials, Titans academy games and other various tournaments.



This year has been incredible to work with the next generation of referees and officials, the growth that most of you have done this season has been an amazing thing to be a part of.

From our opening round to the Grand Final, our members have continued to show up & put in the work. Some being a part of representative football, being a part of your first Finals series and some moving up to Seniors for the first time this year. Congratulations to Jack Thornton who was a part of the 2023 NSWRL Regional Junior Representative Squad with Josh Gollan assisting in coaching roles throughout the year.

The Training & Development Framework continued to rapidly evolve with several on-field skills sessions as well as monthly online video sessions and law quizzes. A whole association training session was held in the middle of the season with special guest Gavin Badger where we had over 25 members in attendance.

We ran several 6-12 Year Referees courses throughout the year. We had a historically high amount of first year referees this year with over 25 new referees joining the ranks across all three competitions with two first-year referees, Dan Willis and Nathan Sekulic achieving finals appointments in their first season. Additionally, two RISE courses were run in Ballina and Tweed Heads where we had over 100 participants of the RISE course complete the 6-12 Years Module and Workshop.



I would like to note the efforts of our two Junior-Sub Committees this year. Group 18 JRL was extremely successful this year with over 40 members running throughout the year under the guidance of Chairperson Gus Bourne and

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

Matt Bishop. Special thanks must go to Matt Bishop who continues to turn up week-in despite not refereeing or not being paid. Group 1 JRL had over 25 members run this year. Special thanks must go to Chairperson Jermaine Bradshaw and Josh Laarhoven as well as other senior members throughout the year.

PARRAMATTA REFEREES



The 2023 season for Parramatta Referees was a remarkable year filled with significant achievements, advancements, and a strong commitment to the development of referees.

Parramatta Referees continued to utilise Hudl as a crucial video review tool, allowing referees to enhance their performance through game analysis. Notably, NRL referees were actively engaged in watching games and providing valuable feedback to the referees, ensuring continuous improvement and learning from top-tier officials. All games from U13's and above were recorded using AI technology, providing a valuable resource for up-and-coming referees to access video footage through HUDL. This technology marked a significant leap in our capabilities, offering enhanced learning and development opportunities.

Another significant development was the provision of communication gear for all games U16's and above, a milestone that had not been possible before. This advancement greatly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of on-field communication among referees, ensuring better decision-making during matches.

In terms of recruitment, Parramatta Referees welcomed over 15 new referees into the fold. Simultaneously, the Association witnessed a record number of coaches who successfully completed the coaching course, further strengthening the support system for referees in the district.

The utilisation of the NSWRL Centre of Excellence became a common practice throughout the year, with notable events, including a joint session with Balmain and a BTUF session conducted by NRL referees. The facility also hosted a two-day seminar in March, featuring guest speaker Brian Barlow from the United States, who shared insights on what it

takes to be a great match official. The seminar covered a wide range of topics, including mental health, presentation skills, and drills conducted by NRL referees. Other activities included physical challenges like hill runs, rope activities, and mental testing, as well as guidance on handling conflicts and abuse, making referees better match officials both on and off the field.

Parramatta Referees extended support to other associations by helping them fulfill games when they faced shortages of referees. Additionally, members of the Association were sent to assist the NRL NT in Darwin on many occasions throughout the year. This support also extended to assisting other districts in implementing coaching resources and video review processes, contributing to the growth and development of refereeing in the broader community.

Parramatta Referees achieved strong representation across various levels, including Junior Reps, NSWRL High Performance, and NRL squads. This representation was a testament to the dedication and talent within the Association and marked the most extensive participation from any district.

A noteworthy addition in the 2023 season was the introduction of the "Match of the Round" concept by the Parramatta Junior League. Each week, an U16/1's game was live-streamed, with the Association appointing referees to these fixtures as a reward for their hard work and commitment, both on and off the field.

Significant milestones during the season included Kasey Badger making her NRL debut as a referee, Ashley Klein officiating the State of Origin Series, Dave Munro's appointment as a touch judge for the NRL Grand Final, Tom Cambourn's appointment to the NSW Cup Grand Final as a touch judge, and Marco Levy winning the Junior Representative Rookie of the Year Award. These achievements highlighted the talent and dedication of the Parramatta Referees community.

In conclusion, the 2023 season for Parramatta Referees was marked by exceptional achievements, continuous growth, and a strong commitment to the development of referees. While the report highlights some significant milestones, it is essential to note that there were numerous other accomplishments and contributions made by Parramatta Referees throughout the season. Looking ahead, the planning for Parramatta Referees in 2024 is almost complete, and we eagerly anticipate an even more successful and fulfilling year.

PENRITH REFEREES



2023 was our first year since COVID having a full uninterrupted season due to medical or weather-related reasons. It started with our annual season launch, with presentations covering practical refereeing, report writing and mental health awareness. New members were welcomed, having completed their Foundation Course the day before and old members were updated on the new laws and interpretations that were implemented locally. Topped off by a great lunch at the end of the day, I'm sure all members who attended got something out of the day.

On the field, there were many highlights throughout the year including the further development of some of our new and young referees, exciting football and fine achievements by our members. Unfortunately, the hard work we do can be overshadowed by the appalling actions of players and coaches that are unacceptable, which almost caused the Association to not appoint referees to a round of football earlier in the year. Congratulations to Curtis Robinson on his appointment to the Open Men's Division 1 grand finale, taking out a "three-peat of awards at the inaugural Bob Kandelas Medal Night (Open Men's Division 1 Referee, Senior Merit Award and Bob Kandelas Referees' Referee).

Achievements

Many of our members set a very high standard in 2023 and were rewarded for their efforts.

- Mitch Robinson was graded into the NSWRL High Performance Group as #1034
- Curtis Robinson refereed the Harold Matthews Cup grand final and was selected in the NSWRL High Performance Group Train on Squad
- Dillan Wells debuted in NSW Cup and was selected as In Goal Judge for two grand finals.
- Cam Turner was selected as a Touch Judge for the Presidents Cup grand final.

- Ben Seppala was selected as In Goal Judge for NSW Women's City vs Country match.

Once again it was another successful season for the Penrith Panthers in the NRL. We can thank the Panthers organisation enough for their continued support of our association and we take immense pride in being a part of their family.

SOUTH SYDNEY REFEREES



Season 2023 was the first full season since 2019 without interruption of some sort. We managed to get through a full season without any cancellations or disruptions. As a result, the season was a big success overall, including a strong group of new referees joining the ranks at Souths and having a great first season.

The Souths Referees representation in the NSWRLRA Junior Representative Squad was as strong as ever in 2023, with Mitchell Pitscheider, Jesse McQuire and Tallon Irons all representing us. We are also very proud that Joel Pitscheider was graded into the NSW High Performance Squad as member number 1033. A great achievement and recognition for years of hard work!

Our A Grade Competition in South Sydney was also extremely competitive. A huge congratulations to Mitchell Pitscheider, who was appointed to referee the A Grade Grand Final.

In the higher grades, Souths Referees continued to represent strongly. Our President, Kieren Irons, appeared in multiple NRL games on the touchline, as well as being appointed as the referee for the Jersey Flegg Grand Final.

We would like to thank the NSWRLRA for their ongoing

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

support. In particular, we want to thank Steve Clapson, who once again had absolutely no issues in dropping everything when we needed his help and was very proactive in coming to help the future talent of our Association. We look forward to an even stronger 2024.

ST GEORGE REFEREES



After a few years of turbulence with seasons interrupted due to covid and some truly shocking weather, it was great to be back in full swing for 2023.

As of our 2023 Annual General Meeting in May of this year, we adopted an amendment to our constitution to restructure our governing body from a committee to an elected board. This has streamlined the way we have been able to run our association by centralising most of the executive responsibilities and is a change that will no doubt leave a lasting positive impact within our association.

St. George Referees enjoyed a boost to our junior ranks with several new first-year referees and welcomed several new senior officials as well from other associations. As a testament to their dedication and attitude throughout their debut season, a majority of the junior grade grand final games were awarded to first-year officials, who represented our association well. Our senior officials had a fantastic season within the St. George Junior League and beyond. Adam Burrige, Joshua Hughes and Alexander Pruscino were appointed to the NSW Junior Rep squad, and Brendan Mani & Joel Mani continued to do St. George Referees proud with their NSW grade appointments. Toni Hughes attended the NRL Women in League training day at Redfern Oval during the season, finding it to be an incredibly positive experience, learning a lot and enjoying working alongside fellow women in league.

The continued encouragement and support from NSWRL taking firmer action on swearing and misconduct from players, club officials and spectators has been warmly received by our members and active officials and resulted in the St. George and Cronulla competitions introducing a formal crackdown on swearing and misconduct. It has facilitated a noticeable improvement in the overall atmosphere of games across our district and on behalf of St. George Referees, I would like to thank NSWRL for encouraging and supporting the policy. I would also like to thank the clubs from the St. George Junior League, and any visiting clubs to our district, for playing their part and taking the internal responsibility of upholding this edict. It has made officiating the games across our district easier, with our match officials being able to focus more on the game without distraction or hindrance, in turn improving their performance and self-confidence. It has been a welcome change, and we will work hard to ensure this new precedent is a lasting one, for the benefit of our officials and for the good of the game.

We would also like to thank our sponsors for their ongoing support - Club Rivers, SSI Security and Investigations, Quality Air Equipment, ZednZed Jewellers and Jets Teamwear. Overall, it has been a successful year for St. George Referees, and we look forward to an even stronger season in 2024.

WESTERN SUBURBS



The Season commenced on a high note when we recruited 17 new Junior 'Rookie' Referees (all under 18) into our Association. The understanding of & the adaptation to Refereeing was rewarded with many of them being appointed to Referee in the Junior Final Series games.

The Senior Macarthur Conference Competition was again a disappointment for Wests members, which saw three of our experienced members withdrawing their services for this Competition.

The Final Series was again frustrating for Western Suburbs Referees when our members received appointments to 5 out of 20 Grand Finals, with the balance going to Group 6

Referees in the Under 13 to Under 16's Competitions.

Western Suburbs Referees also gained the services of an experienced Referee in Rhianna Boag. Rhianna is a member of the NSWRL Higher Performance Squad and was appointed to the U18 Australian Championships in Queensland. Rhianna was also appointed to referee her first initial First Grade match in the Macarthur Conference Competition. She also was appointed in this Competition, as Touch Judge for the 1st Grade Grand Final - a wonderful achievement.

Another highlight for one of our Members, Dylan Grundeman receiving the opportunity to travel to Darwin to assist in the NTNRL Competition. Dylan was extremely well received to the extent, discussions have commenced to possibly make this an Annual Event, where Western Suburbs Referees Association can send a member to assist with their Refereeing, as well as in Coaching & Development of their local Referees.

Our Member's in the NSWRL Graded Squad continue to perform well, gaining the experience in the higher grades and receiving the accolade's they deserve.

Another pleasing aspect for the Season saw three of our members receive their Referee's Coaching Accreditation, enabling the Coaching & Development of our additional Referees.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parramatta Referees Association for their assistance in providing referees throughout the Season when needed.

We look forward to Season 2024.

WOODBIDGE CUP REFEREES



Once again, it is a privilege to submit a report to the NSWRLRA for season 2023.

After the Woodbridge Cup competition expanded with three new clubs entering in 2022, season 2023 saw all twelve clubs return, logistically this saw six different venues in operation per round expanding from towns such as Grenfell, Condobolin, Bathurst, Orange, Oberon, Trundle, Peak Hill, Manildra, Cargo, Eugowra, Canowindra & Molong.

This means like most regional associations, early starts, long road trips and late arrivals back home on Saturday & Sunday evenings while sharing the road with local wildlife. At this point we would like to acknowledge the efforts of Molong, Manildra & especially Eugowra for their ability to recover and submit teams into the competition after what was a well-documented flooding event that caused considerable damage to club infrastructure and playing fields and in Eugowra's case decimated the town. Our members once again embraced the challenge and enjoyed the experience of Officiating rugby league and helping to provide an avenue for these small townships to have connection with community through Rugby League.

If there is one benefit deriving from the high workload on match officials, it is certainly in the way of increased opportunities for developing our members. We would like to highlight the following people who made senior officiating debuts in the middle this season, Noah Dal Molin & Danny Quinn made their first-grade debuts, whilst Kaelan Dal Molin & Riley Bollinger also made debuts in the centre of the League Tag competition. We also had many younger match officials too numerous to mention make debuts on the touch line.

As with most leagues & associations, the match scheduling of senior rugby league games on the same day as junior rugby league games reduces the ability of our association to provide match officials including Referee Coaches to the various venues. The collaborative approach from Young & Cowra junior leagues are crucial to the ability to provide match officials to senior & junior leagues alike. We take this opportunity to thank Young & Cowra Junior Rugby Leagues for their cooperation with Woodbridge Cup Referees Association, in allowing/sharing these younger match officials to help on Saturdays. We would also like to acknowledge the Woodbridge Cup Rugby League Board & clubs for adopting the Associations proposed changes to the 2023 draw allowing us to better manage and fulfill appointment commitments.

Development for most of our up & coming Match Officials was via weekly referee training sessions in Young. These sessions were well attended by junior match officials, average attendances of sixteen throughout the season was very pleasing. The benefits of these sessions were evident throughout the season in terms of confidence and skillsets displayed in both junior & senior match environments. Recruitment and participation into Woodbridge Cup RA were strong out of Young & Cowra Junior Rugby Leagues.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS continued

The following Referees received awards for their efforts in for the 2023 season.

- Jason Whitney Woodbridge Cup Rugby League Referee of the Year award.
- Sonny Eastwood Woodbridge Cup Referees Association, Tony Young Shield award.
- Riley Bollinger Woodbridge Cup Referees Association League Tag award.
- Adam Simpson Woodbridge Cup Referees Association most improved award.
- Dave Foster awarded with Life Membership into WCRA.

We would also like to highlight the efforts of Sonny Eastwood who was part of the NSWRL Junior Rep Development squad in 2023.

We would like to acknowledge our WCRA members for their efforts in making themselves available for Saturday's & Sundays throughout the season. We would also like to thank our numerous sponsors especially Bob Hornby from Hornby Transport, Bob recently purchased an auction item we had as a fundraiser then after his successful generous bid, he then gifted the item to one of the losing bidders! You are a great man Bob, and we are proud to be sponsored by your company! Also want to thank Woodbridge Cup Rugby League Executive for their support of our Match Officials during the season. Without everyone's contribution & dedication, Rugby League in small regional communities could not happen.

*Thank you to all of our associations
throughout NSW that have contributed so much
to a successful 2023 season*

THOSE MAGIC MOMENTS



Kasey Badger and her NRL debut with her family support team



Winners are grinners - Les Matthews Memorial Golf Day - Dennis Spagarino Champions 2023



The Ambassador presents Ashley Klein with his Origin 3 Match Jersey



David Munro - Winner Max Tomsett Award 2023



TRY OF THE YEAR - Barry Ruttle scores at the NSWRLRA Conference at Homebush

NSWRLRA LIFE MEMBERS REUNION & PRESENTATION LUNCH

Our signature event at the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground was held on Saturday 7 October with over 140 Life Members and guests in attendance.

A number of significant awards were presented and the NSWRLRA Life Membership presentation to Bill Harrigan OAM, the highest honour that can be bestowed on a member of our association, was a highlight.

Congratulations to the recipients of the association awards.



William Drury and Therese Braybrook - widow of Denis Braybrook



Graded Squad Members



Pat Walsh and Greg McCallum



Kieren Irons with Michael Stone



Kieren Irons and Director Peter Filmer



Ryan Micallef and Director Geoff Whiddon



NRL Grandfinal Referee Adam Gee and Life Member Paul Simpkins



Max McGuire-Allen with Judy Newland - daughter of Jack O'Sullivan



Damian Brady and Director Steve Clapson



Daniel Luttringer and Director William Drury



Cameron Paddy with Doug Wintin OAM



Cameron Paddy with Bill Harrigan OAM

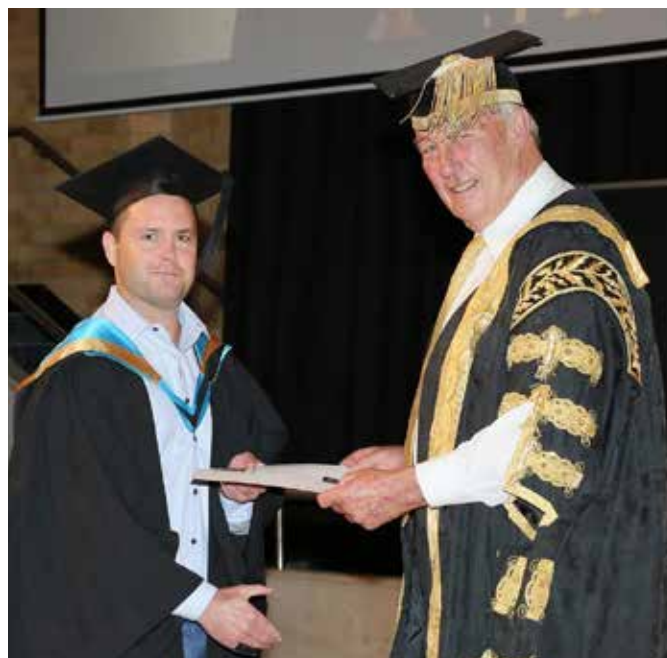
2023 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2023 a number of our members received or attained significant milestones away from the field.

We congratulate them on their special achievements.



Our Chairman received A Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the King's Birthday Honours for his significant service to the Parliament of NSW, to local government and to the community.



After 4 years of study, Matt Noyen graduated with a Bachelor of Business from ANU. Pictured receiving his accreditation from the Dean.



After doing his initial NRL Grand Final Adam Gee completed a Masters of High Performance in Sport. Pictured with proud parents Warren and Annette.



NRL referee Grant Atkins was recently recognised by the Australian Catholic University for his efforts with the whistle and his Graduate Certificate in High Performance Sports Leadership Course.

AWARDS HONOUR ROLL

THE DOUG WINTIN OAM AWARD - FORMERLY THE GEORGE & AMY HANSEN AWARD

Doug Wintin OAM is a highly respected Life Member and current Patron of the NSWRLRA. This Award reflects the values Doug holds of integrity, commitment, adherence to protocol and striving for improvement to be your best.

Presented to a Graded member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Association over a period of time, has attended General Meetings where appropriate, whose personal demeanour is beyond reproach and has performed special acts for the benefit of the NSWRLRA.

1975	F.O. Cohen	1992	R. Styles	2009	G. McCallum
1976	C.E. Wigzell	1993	Kevin Jeffes	2010	G. Jankowski
1977	F.W. Walsh	1994	T. Danks	2011	S. Clapson
1978	A. Shiner	1995	B. Gilchrist	2012	R. Culkin
1979	D. Wintin	1996	J. Griffiths	2013	B. Barry
1980	J. Gocher	1997	D. Spagarino	2014	P. Filmer O.A.M.
1981	D. Braybrook	1998	B. Ruttle	2015	M. Lewis
1982	I. McCall	1999	T. Healy	2016	B. Gately
1983	C. Gilchrist	2000	K. Roberts	2017	A. Zapantis
1984	P. Longhurst	2001	Martin Ryan	2018	P. Simpkins
1985	B. Wiseman	2002	A. Farlow	2019	N. Loveday
1986	L. Matthews	2003	D. Alchin	2020	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
1987	L. Williams	2004	P. Kalina	2021	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
1988	Michael Ryan	2005	J. O'Sullivan	2022	D. Luttringer
1989	M. Stone	2006	D. Keen	2023	C. Paddy
1990	I. Parnaby	2007	L. Bugden		
1991	P. Cooley	2008	F. Leonard		

FRANK WALSH MEMORIAL TROPHY

SG Ball Grand Final Referee.

Frank Walsh was a long serving graded official before holding the position of Secretary of the NSWRLRA for 15 years. A Life member of the NSWRLRA and the Manly Warringah RLRA.

1990	Michael Lewis (Parramatta)	2008	Shane Charman (Manly)
1991	Sean Fielder (South Sydney)	2009	Daniel Olford (Penrith)
1992	Craig Tracey (Eastern Suburbs)	2010	Lawrence McDonnell (Penrith)
1993	Darren Gocher (Cronulla-Sutherland)	2011	Kasey Badger (Parramatta)
1994	Brett Lynch (Penrith)	2012	Warwick Bowden (Parramatta)
1995	Rod Lawrence (South Sydney)	2013	Joshua McGowan (Central Coast)
1996	Jason O'Brien (South Sydney)	2014	Kieren Irons (South Sydney)
1997	Jason Weinstien (Western Suburbs)	2015	Martin Jones (Canberra)
1998	Jeffery Younis (Balmain)	2016	Jake Sutherland (Central Coast)
1999	Jason Robinson (Penrith)	2017	Clayton Wills (Central Coast)
2000	Jennifer Robinson (Penrith)	2018	Cameron Turner (Penrith)
2001	Brad Rye (Western Suburbs)	2019	Luke Saldern (Manly)
2002	Ben Cummins (Canberra)	2020	Ben Seppala (Canberra) (on Merit)
2003	Alan Shortall (Parramatta)	2021	Brendan Mani (St George)
2004	Chris James (Western Suburbs)	2022	Ethan Klein (Parramatta)
2005	Gavin Reynolds (Parramatta)	2023	Brayden Hunt (Newcastle)
2006	David Munro (South Sydney)		
2007	Michael Laverty (Canberra)		

AWARDS HONOUR ROLL continued

DENIS BRAYBROOK MEMORIAL TROPHY

Denis Braybrook was a respected first grade referee who upon retirement was appointed as the NSWRL'S first full-time Referee's Co-ordinator a role. He was responsible for many new initiatives that changed the way referees trained and prepared for games. He was a Life Member of the NSWRLRA.

Presented to a District Official that has been involved in the administration of an affiliated District Association over a period of time, has promoted that District and improved refereeing in the district by being involved in coaching and mentoring of referees.

1994	Phil Ellis	2005	Bob Garwood	2015	Paul Tape
1995	Kevin Jeffes	2006	Dave Pickering	2016	Matthew Hall
1996	Jack O'Sullivan	2007	Noel Bissett	2017	Ken McNaught
1997	Doug Wintin	2008	Barry Beveridge	2018	Gary Haines
1998	Bruce Chapman	2009	Geoff Whiddon	2019	Col White
1999	Les Matthews	2010	David Field	2020	Chris Nightingale
2000	No Recipient	2011	Ken McNaught and Gerry Hinds	2021	John Taylor
2001	Reg Austin	2012	Lionel Brown	2022	Kim Archer
2002	Pat Walsh	2013	Jim Hawker	2023	William Drury
2003	Max Mannix	2014	Michael Qualiey and Gerry Hinds		
2004	Col White				

BILL HARRIGAN TROPHY

Bill was a highly successful Grand Final, International and State of Origin referee and later, went on to be appointed as Coach of the NRL Referees.

The Bill Harrigan Trophy is presented to the referee of the senior competition of the NSWRL. This year - 'The Knock-On Effect Cup'.

2004	Gavin Badger
2005	Ben Cummins
2006	Steve Lyons
2007	Gerard Sutton
2008	Gerard Sutton
2009	Adam Gee
2010	David Munro
2011	Jon Stone
2012	Matt Noyen
2013	Zbigniew Przeklasa-Adamski
2014	Liam Nicholls
2015	Liam Nicholls
2016	Jon Stone
2017	Chris Treneman
2018	Adam Cassidy
2019	Todd Smith
2020	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2021	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2022	Darian Furner
2023	Cameron Paddy

ERIC COX MEDAL

Eric Cox OAM was a Life Member of both the NSWRLRA and the NSWRL. Eric held the role of NSWRLRA Secretary for many years as well as being the NSWRLRA delegate on the then powerful NSWRL General Committee. Eric's services to the NSWRLRA continued for many decades after receiving his Life Membership of the NSWRLRA.

Presented to a Member of the NSWRLRA, who has received Life Membership and has made a very significant contribution to the NSWRLRA for at least ten years after receiving Life Membership.

2008	Jack O'Sullivan
2009	Dennis Spagarino
2010	Max Dunn
2011	Ian McCall
2012	Kevin Roberts
2013	Phil Cooley
2014	Frank Leonard
2015	Doug Wintin
2016	Peter Filmer
2017	Tony Danks
2018	Bryan Gilchrist
2019	Steve Clapson
2020	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2021	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2022	Brian Barry
2023	Greg McCallum JP & Pat Walsh

MICHAEL RYAN MEDAL

Referees' Referee Award - voted by members of the Development Squad.

Michael Ryan was an elite Touch Judge reaching the very top of his craft. He matched that high achievement by his passion for the development of district referees into quality graded officials. A Life Member of the NSWRLRA and also worked within the NSWRL assisting the Referees Coaching program.

2008	Mitchell Stone (Parramatta)
2009	Lawrence McDonnell (Penrith)
2010	Zbigniew Przeklasa-Adamski (Parramatta)
2011	Liam Nicholls (Illawarra)
2012	Drew Oultram (Newcastle Coalfields)
2013	James Vella (South Sydney)
2014	Kieren Irons (South Sydney)
2015	Daniel Luttringer (Parramatta)
2016	Pat Mackey (Parramatta)
2017	Tom Cambourn (Parramatta)
2018	Mitchell Currie (Cronulla) & Ben McMurray (Parramatta)
2019	Luke Saldern (Manly)
2020	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2021	Brendan Mani (St George)
2022	Ethan Klein (Parramatta) & Ben Seppala (Penrith)
2023	Brayden Hunt (Newcastle)

KEVIN JEFFES TROPHY

Awarded to the most improved referee in the Development Squad.

Kevin Jeffes was a strong contributor to the training and coaching of up-and-coming referees at this level. Kevin was a Life Member of the NSWRLRA.

2012	Joshua McGowan (Central Coast)
2013	Damien Simes (St George)
2014	Martin Jones (Canberra)
2015	Jo West (Canberra)
2016	Cameron Paddy (Cronulla)
2017	Ben McMurray (Parramatta)
2018	Paul Eden (Western Suburbs)
2019	Ben Seppala & Jack Bird (Canberra & Illawarra)
2020	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2021	Adam Sirianni (Balmain)
2022	Harrison Baysarri (Parramatta)
2023	Jabril Daizli (Canterbury Bankstown)

LES MATTHEWS AWARD

Rookie Referee (best performed official in their first year in the Development Squad).

Les Matthews was a passionate supporter of junior rugby League. A Life Member of the NSWRL and the NSWRLRA Les was Secretary / EO of the NSWRLRA for 18 years.

2009	Laurie Lawira (Manly-Warringah)
2010	Anthony Grady (Illawarra)
2011	Peter Crombie-Brown (University Cup)
2012	Martin Jones (Canberra)
2013	Nathan Loveday (Canterbury-Bankstown)
2014	David Gorman (Group 6)
2015	Jake Edwards (Central Coast) Mike Smail (University Cup)
2016	Robert Morey (Parramatta)
2017	Paul Eden (Western Suburbs)
2018	Brendan Mani (St George)
2019	Joshua Bradstock (Cronulla)
2020	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2021	Hayden Hooker (Western suburbs)
2022	Kieran Casey (South Sydney)
2023	Marco Levy (Parramatta)

JACK O'SULLIVAN TROPHY

Jack O'Sullivan was a great supporter of Junior referees and a willing and dedicated member of the Referee Recruitment and Coordination team over many All-Schools' Carnivals.

The Jack O'Sullivan Trophy is awarded to a referee officiating in the Primary age carnivals who demonstrates significant potential as a referee.

2014	Oscar Murphy (Manly)
2015	Elysia Higgins (Balmain)
2016	Ben Thompson (Central Coast)
2017	Josh Hughes (St George)
2018	Nathan McGarry
2019	Todd Pieters (Parramatta)
2020	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2021	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2022	Stuart Halsey (Group 10)
2023	Max McGuire-Allen (Group XI)

AWARDS HONOUR ROLL continued

COL PEARCE MEDAL

The medal is judged by the Coaching Staff of the NRL Squad and awarded to the most consistent and best referee throughout the full twenty six rounds of the NRL Telstra Premiership.

2004	Tim Mander	2015	Gerard Sutton
2005	Paul Simpkins	2016	Ben Cummins
2006	Steve Clark	2017	Matt Cecchin
2007	Tony Archer	2018	Gerard Sutton
2008	Tony Archer	2019	Gerard Sutton
2009	Shayne Hayne	2020	Gerard Sutton
2010	Tony Archer	2021	Gerard Sutton
2011	Shayne Hayne	2022	Ashley Klein
2012	Ben Cummins	2023	Ashley Klein
2013	Shayne Hayne		
2014	Gerard Sutton		

MICHAEL STONE MEDAL

A Life Member of the NSWRLRA and NSWRL, Michael Stone was a Grand Final, State of Origin and International Referee whose off-field career was as successful. A NSWRL / ARL Referees Co-ordinator for many years, Michael has had a significant impact on many careers. A former Chairman and Treasurer of the NSWRLRA.

This medal is awarded to a referee considered to be a referees' referee. The award is determined through a voting system in which the only participants are the members of the Graded Squad. A secret ballot, on a 3, 2, 1 basis is conducted at the end of the season.

2006	Chris James	2015	Liam Nicholls
2007	Gerard Sutton	2016	Ryan Jackson
2008	Adam Reid	2017	Darian Furner
2009	Peter Sciberras	2018	Liam Nichols
2010	Jon Stone	2019	Kieren Irons
2011	Jon Stone	2020	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2012	Matt Noyen	2021	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>
2013	Ziggy Przeklasa- Admanski	2022	Nathan Loveday
2014	Adam Cassidy & Liam Nicholls	2023	Kieren Irons

FRANK LEONARD TROPHY

Tarsha Gale Grand Final Referee.

This trophy is named in honour of former top line Touch Judge Frank Leonard who was also a long serving Executive Officer of the NSWRLRA.

2017	Dillan Wells (Penrith)	2021	Blake Williams (Western Suburbs)
2018	Noah Simpkins (South Sydney)	2022	Blake Williams (Western Suburbs)
2019	Joshua Bradstock (Cronulla)	2023	Lachlan Greenfield (Illawarra)
2020	<i>Not awarded due to COVID-19</i>		

JOHN MEEHAN TROPHY

Women's Country Championship Grand Final Referee.
John has extensive experience in conducting and chairing judiciary proceedings for sporting bodies, including the educating of judiciary panels in judiciary hearings. John has been the honorary solicitor for the NSW Country Rugby League Referees Association (CRLRA) since 1997 and in that role have developed an expertise in drafting constitutions for sporting associations. In recognition of his service, the CRLRA awarded John life membership.

- 2022 Bailey Warren (Group 7)
- 2023 Mitchell Pitscheider (South Sydney)

DENNIS SPAGARINO TROPHY

Harold Matthews Cup Grand Final Referee.
This trophy has been named to recognise the wonderful on-going contribution to the NSWRLRA and Rugby League by Dennis Spagarino former 1st grade referee, NSWRL Grade Coach. Life Member of the NSWRL and NSWRLRA.

- 2022 Ben Seppala (Penrith)
- 2023 Curtis Robinson (Penrith)

THE BEST / RIOLO / KITCHER AWARD

All Life Members of the former CRLRA / NSWRLRA Nick Best OAM, Kevin Riolo OAM and Frank Kitcher OAM who gave and in the case of Kevin and Frank continue to give great support and service to the game. Nick was a former long-term President and Kevin and Frank long term Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Over 100 years of combined executive service to the CRLRA. Kevin is a Life Member of the NSWRL.

Awarded to the most outstanding Referee in Regional Representative Rugby League

- 2022 Cody Simmons (Group 19)
- 2023 Billy Greatbatch

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FOR LIFE

- G.Carr
- D. Nissen
- C.Turner

HONORARY MEMBERS

- Duffy, Graham
- Watson, Stan
- Bettiol, Chris

PAT WALSH TROPHY

Andrew Johns Cup Grand Final Referee.
Pat commenced his refereeing involvement when he achieved his ticket in 1982. He has dedicated much of his life since then in officiating and developing referees. Pat is a Life Member of various Leagues and Associations in southern NSW including Group 9 and Group 16 Referees, and was also a Life Member of CRLRA and, of course, now of NSWRLRA.

- 2022 Ryan Micallef (Group 7)
- 2023 Nathan Hillier (Newcastle)

TONY YOUNG MEMORIAL TROPHY

Laurie Daley Cup Grand Final Referee
Tony Young was a Patron of the CRLRA and an invaluable mentor to the young match officials who came under his tutelage. A Life Member of the CRLRA and many Rugby League Associations.

- 2022 Braiden Mcintosh (Group 17)
- 2023 Bailey Warren (Group 7)



LIFE MEMBERSHIP HONOUR ROLL

B.Adams	2021*	R. Garwood	1988	J. McCormack	2008
D. Alchin	2009	B. Gately	1992	J. Meehan	2012*
B. Barry	1974	B. Gilchrist	1998	N. Norris	2011*
S. Betts	2000	J. Gocher	1983	I. Parnaby	1996
B. Bolton	1993	B. Goldsworthy	2002	R. Pearce	2001
B. Bonnie	2007	J. Griffiths O.A.M	2003	K. Rayment	2017*
S. Brown	2019*	M. Gruber	1994*	K. Riolo OAM	1982*
L. Bugden	2013	S. Hampstead	2018	B. Ruttle	1999
P. Bungate	2009	T. Healy	2004	P. Ryan	1991
A. Byrnes OAM	1972*	W Harrigan OAM	2003	P. Simpkins	2019
B. Chapman	1973*	M. Hewitt	2019	M. Stone	1989
S. Clapson	2010	G. Jankowski	2012	S. Toms	2004*
S. Clark	2014	T. Gustard	1981*	G. Turnbull	2006*
J. Connor	1985	R. Inskip	2014*	C. Turnell	1984
P. Cooley	1994	B. Johnson	1975*	P. Walsh	2007*
T. Danks	2001	P. Kalina	2004	C. Ward	1990
M. Dunn	1998	D. Keen	2011	M. Weekes	1997
W. Drury	2018*	F. Kitcher OAM	1986*	G. West	1999
M. Edwards	2019*	A. Last	2008*	R. Wiegold	1990*
A. Farlow	2005	F. Leonard	2006	W. Wilson	2016*
P. Filmer O.A.M	1995	M. Lewis	2013	D. Wintin O.A.M	1981
T. Fletcher	2009*	P. Longhurst	1986	B. Wiseman	1987
K. Forde	2016*	B. Lynch	2014		
		I. McCall	1984		
		G. McCallum	2011		

* Former CRLRA Life Member

BILL HARRIGAN LIFE MEMBERSHIP 2023

The NSWRLRA bestowed the great honour of Life Membership on Bill Harrigan at the 115th Annual General Meeting in March 2023.

Bill became the 165th Life Member of the NSWRLRA.

Bill received his Life Membership Blazer at the NSWRLRA Life Members Reunion and Presentation Lunch at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Ambassador and fellow Life Member Brian Barry was asked by Bill to present the Blazer.

Bill was joined at the presentation by his wife Lesley, children Andrew, Billie, Charlie and Jed and parents Bill Snr and Joy Harrigan along with a number of those teachers and friends that he has formed close relationships with.

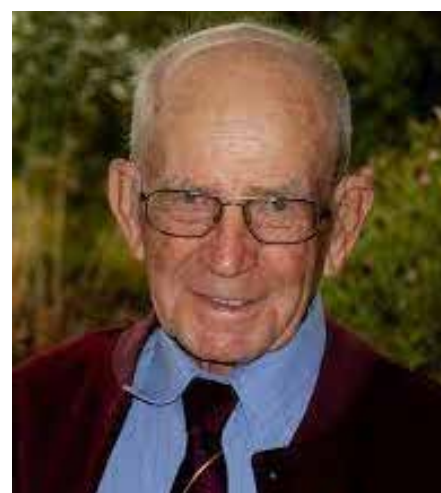
Bill's outstanding on field record as well as his various roles post refereeing were recognised highly in the recommendation of the NSWRLRA Board in supporting the nomination.



LIFE MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

K. Arnold	1971	W. Fry	1936	H. Poulton	1925
L. Baggott	1945	M. Godfrey	1979	K. Roberts	1992
A. Ballerum	1917	C. Gilchrist	1983	L. Rosen	1955
J. Bates	1946	H. Gillard	1975*	H. Rowlands	1928
T. Bellew O.A.M	1961	T. Grew	1958	C. Russell snr	1974*
G. Benson	1977	G. Griffin	1951	M. Ryan	1991
N. Best OAM	1984*	J. Griffin	1939	L. Samuelson	1973
G. Bishop	1950	R. Hall	1939	C. Shomberg	1972
N. Bissett O.A.M	2000	J. Hansen	1925	H. Schutema	1940
J. Black	1928	J. Harris OAM	1980	J. Sheehan	1956*
G. Boyd	1918	G. Hattley	1976*	A. Shiner O.A.M	1955
D. Bratton	1953	A Holt	1966	A. Shipway	1959
D. Braybrook	1982	C. Hudson	1975	K. Smith	1998*
T. Brennan	1940	K. Jeffes	1995	R. Smyth	1951
R. Brock	1967	J. Jewell	1988	A. Soane	1971
H. Brown	1956*	J. Kelly	1954	D. Spagarino	1997
L. Bruyeres	1972	J. Kelly	1982	A. Spankie	1945
C. Brown	1963	W. Kelly	1969	N. Spohr	1971*
J. Buchanan	1924	K. Keough	1970	R. Styles	1994
E. Buckley	1937	E. Kerr	1938	J. Turner	1942
S. Carey	1956	L. Koch	1988*	M. Tomsett	1979
J. Clarke	1943	A. Konnecke	1968	E. Tinsley	1967
N. Clement	1981	D. Lawler	1957	B. Wales Snr	1935
O. Cohen	1948	P. Lee	1942	F. Walsh	1965
J. Colenso	1989	T. Leffler	1956	R. Ward (Ray)	1961*
A. Collins	1947	D. Macdonald	1976	R. Ward	1949
T. Costello	1936	M. Maloney	1941	A. Welsh	1921
B. Cowley	1969	J. Martin	1968	C. Wigzell B.E.M	1938
E. Cox O.A.M	1970	L. Matthews	1986	L. Williams	1957
W. Cuke	1956	J. McGauley	1944	G. Wirth	1939
R. Cummins	1966	C. McLetchie	1972*	T. Young	1971*
J. Davies	1954	T. McMahan	1915	C. Yorke	1943
A. Davis	1950	J. Mewburn	1999*		
L. Deane	1935	H. Millington	1934		
F. Delaney	1932	J. Moses B.E.M	1944		
A Dennis	1936	J. Montgomery OAM	1973		
W. Devine Snr	1949	T. Murphy	1985		
R. Dick	1976	J. Murray	1934		
T. Dickenson	1921	W. Neil	1946		
R. Drake	1937	A. Neville	1987		
R. Edwards	1975*	J. O'Brien	1952		
H. Elliot	1929	R. O'Donnell	1965		
P. Elliss	1978	J. O'Sullivan	1974		
F. Erickson	1964	A. Oxford	1952		
J. Farquhar	1929	K. Page	1978		
J. Farrelly	1977	E. Paine	1948		
A. Farrow	1922	C. Pearce	1960		
A. Fifield	1947	G. Pearce	1953		
E. Fletcher	1941	H. Pierce	1963		

* Former CRLRA Life Member



Tony Young

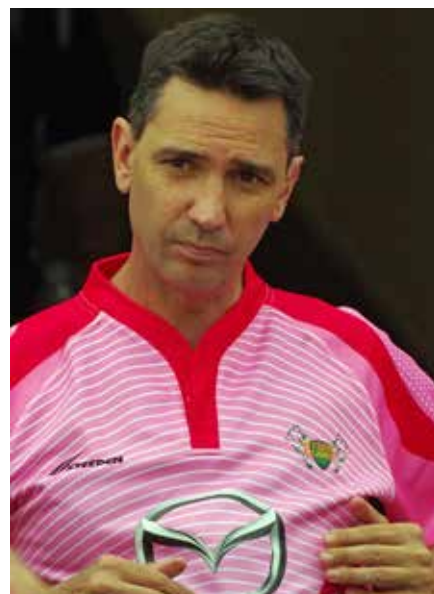
NON-ACTIVE MEMBERS

Abood, David
Allard, Kevin
Almond, Neil
Archer, Tony
Bailey, Gerard
Battin, Phil
Beacroft, Michael
Belgre, John
Best, Rohan
Blomfield, John
Bohan, Mark
Bowen, Pat
Bowron, David
Brown, Riley
Burtenshaw, Darren
Carrall, Steve
Castle, Peter
Cecchin, Matthew
Constantine, Danny
Cranston, Rod
Cini, Trent
Cox, Jim
Daizli, Richard
Damaso, Mat
Deland-Cleveland, Taylor
De Las Heras, Tony
Del Vecchio, Silvio
Devcich, Adam
Digby, Peter
Dorahy, Phil
Duncan, Paul
Edney, Leon
Elias, George
Farlow, Jay
Field, Paul
Fielder, Sean
Gary, Haines
Gilchrist, Andrew
Gocher, Darren
Gray, Kerry
Hannon, Tim
Harrigan, Bill
Hartley, Greg
Hartup, Jeff
Hayne, Shayne
Haynes, Cliff
Heaton, Grant
Hensley, Ross

Hewitt, Peter
Higgins, Jason
Hinton, Mark
Holland, Paul
Hoffman, Mitchell
Holton, Mark
Howell, Mick
Humphreys, Richie
Jackson, Glenn
Jackson, Ryan
Jadwat, Moghseen
James, Chris
Jay, David
Jones, Col
Jones, Michael
Kelly, Greg
Kelly, Peter
Kelly, Tony
Keram, Feras
Kiddle, Robert
Lee, Gary
Lehane, Faye
Loveday, Wayne
Macinante, Paul
Maksoud, Tony
Mander, Tim
Manton Ken
Maxwell, Jared
McDonnell, Lawrence
McGowan, Joshua
McMurray, Ben
McRae, Andrew
Moon, Peter
Murphy, Scott
Murray, Scot
Murray, Peter
Neal, Jim
Oaten, Mark
O'Brien, Jason
O'Malley, Michael*
Olford, Daniel
Oliveira, Jim
Pearson, Bill
Penfold, Luke
Perenara, Henry
Picard, Ross
Portsmouth, Scott
Povah, Keith

Reynolds, Gavin
Reynolds, Pat
Robertson, Graham
Robinson, Tim
Ryan, David
Ryan, Martin
Scriberras, Peter
Shepherd, Scott
Shortall, Alan
Simes, Damien
Sung, Philip
Stuart, Phil
Sutton, Bernard
Suttor, Brett
Taylor, Michael
Treneman, Chris
Treneman Mathew
Todd, Scott
Turner, Russell
Turvey, David
Van de Moosdyk, Darren
Villa, Sean
Walters, Ryan
Webber, Brian
Wheeler, Andrew
Wood, Brenden
White, Colin
Yates, Greg
Zapantis, Andrew

*Deceased



Tony De Las Heras

NSW BASED GRADED REFEREES (NSWRL & NRL SQUADS)

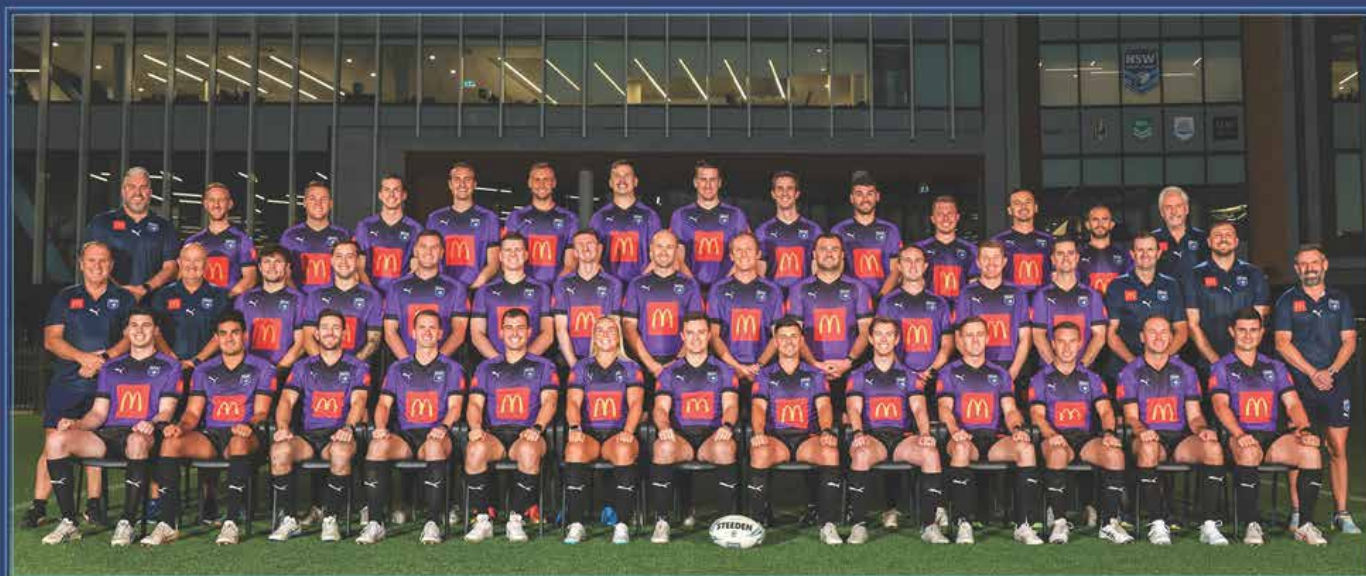
Atkins, Grant*
Badger, Kasey*
Beashel, Nicholas
Bird, Jack
Cambourn, Tom
Cummins, Ben*
Currie, Mitchell
Eden, Paul
Furner, Darian*
Gee, Adam*
Ford, Micheal
Heckendorf, Luke
Henderson, Phil*
Irons, Kieren*
Jones, Martin
Kiehne, Brad
Klein, Ashley*
Klein Ethan
Loveday, Nathan

Luttringer, Daniel
Mackey, Patrick
Mani, Brendan
Mani, Joel
Matheson, Louis
McFarlane, Ricky
Mitchell, Cameron
Morey, Robert
Munro, David
Murray, Ethan
Nicholls, Liam
Nolan, Karra-Lee
Noyen, Matt*
Oultram, Drew*
Paddy, Cameron
Przeklasa-Adamski, Zbigniew*
Reid, Adam
Saldern, Luke
Seppala Ben

Sirianni Adam
Smith, Todd*
Stindl, Tom
Stone, Jonathan*
Stone, Mitchell
Suters, Charlie
Sutherland, Jake
Sutton, Chris*
Sutton, Gerard*
Teague, Benjamin*
Turner, Cameron
Wells, Dillan
Williams Blake
Wills, Clayton
Woods, John

*NRL Full/Part time

2023 NSWRL REFEREES SQUAD



BACK ROW: Mick Stierli, Robert Morey, Nathan Loveday, Mitchell Robinson, Tom Stindl, Louis Matheson, Brad Kiehne, Mitch Currie, Jack Bird, Billy Greatbatch, Paul Eden, Cameron Mitchell, Ben Teague, Paul Holland

MIDDLE ROW: Stuart Raper, Paul Kalina, Ethan Klein, Dillan Wells, Micheal Ford, Ben Seppala, Cameron Turner, Tom Cambourn, Liam Nicholls, Ethan Murray, Martin Jones, Mitchell Stone, Patrick Mackey, Russell Turner, Josh Zoppo, Gavin Badger

FRONT ROW: Joel Pitscheider, Brendan Mani, Charlie Suters, Clayton Wills, Kieren Irons, Karra-Lee Nolan, Damian Brady, Cameron Paddy, Blake Williams, Jake Sutherland, Daniel Luttringer, Nick Beashel, Luke Saldern

ABSENT: Adam Sirianni, John Woods, Tate Hoobin, Luke Heckendorf



2023 NRL MATCH OFFICIALS GAME COUNTS - NSWRLRA MEMBERS

NAME	REFEREE	TOUCH JUDGE	TOTAL ON FIELD	VIDEO REFEREE	COMBINED TOTAL
Adam Gee	238	43	281	60	341
Ashley Klein	377	0	377	295	672
Belinda Sharpe	9	195	204	0	204
Ben Cummins	443	26	469	32	501
Ben Teague	0	2	2	0	2
Cameron Paddy	0	23	23	0	23
Chris Butler	132	135	267	89	356
Chris Sutton	185	118	303	2	305
Damian Brady	0	10	10	0	10
Dan Munroe	0	6	6	0	6
Dan Schwass	0	2	2	0	2
Darian Furner	0	74	74	0	74
David Munro	118	218	336	2	338
Drew Oultram	0	131	131	0	131
Gerard Sutton	368	54	422	57	479
Grant Atkins	257	102	359	82	441
Jarrod Cole	0	34	34	0	34
Jon Stone	68	130	198	0	198
Kasey Badger	1	161	162	43	205
Liam Kennedy	28	106	134	5	139
Liam Nicholls	0	36	36	0	36
Kieren Irons	0	12	12	0	12
Matt Noyen	70	74	144	67	211
Michael Wise	1	290	291	0	291
Nick Beashel	0	281	281	0	281
Nick Morel	0	113	113	0	113
Nick Pelgrave	0	26	26	0	26
Peter Gough	127	101	228	0	228
Phil Henderson	40	172	212	0	212
Todd Smith	43	100	143	5	148
Tyson Brough	0	15	15	0	15
Wyatt Raymond	0	77	77	4	81
Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski	63	142	205	0	205
Alan Shortall	243	46	289	93	382
Jared Maxwell	271	14	285	306	591
Ben Galea	0	0	0	696	696
Steve Chiddy	12	325	337	515	852
Steve Carrall	2	380	382	23	405
Shayne Hayne	328	69	397	59	456
David Fairleigh	0	0	0	86	86
Russell Smith	38	0	38	124	162
Clayton Sharpe	0	132	132	3	135
Jason Robinson	210	12	222	150	372

NSWRLRA GRADED SQUAD

#	NAME	NSW CUP REF / TJ		PRESIDENT'S CUP REF / TJ		RON MASSEY CUP REF / TJ		SYDNEY SHIELD REF / TJ		JERSEY FLEGG REF / TJ	
936	Nic Beashal	0	93	0	0	0	36	0	5	0	11
942	John Woods	0	277	0	12	0	97	0	55	0	29
960	Mitchell Stone	0	160	0	6	1	146	0	89	0	31
957	Liam Nicholls	75	105	0	0	21	26	7	11	0	29
975	Kieren Irons	100	38	8	2	38	19	33	10	5	3
976	Ben Teague	0	167	0	10	0	53	0	30	0	38
987	Martin Jones	44	28	4	2	49	6	36	3	5	6
994	Patrick Mackey	0	43	0	1	0	83	2	85	0	26
995	Cameron Paddy	65	47	9	3	32	11	21	7	2	1
996	Jake Sutherland	44	49	4	4	48	9	21	7	8	3
1001	Clayton Wills	18	24	3	0	44	18	24	15	13	5
1002	Thomas Cambourn	1	53	0	2	20	18	27	26	14	25
1004	Nathan Loveday	11	28	3	3	45	23	36	37	16	15
1005	Brad Kiehne	0	23	0	1	0	30	45	50	33	32
1007	Daniel Luttringer	38	23	1	0	39	19	35	30	11	10
1009	Damien Brady	51	30	4	3	47	10	5	7	3	2
1010	Luke Heckendorf	0	21	0	1	0	35	0	66	0	47
1013	Mitchell Currie	4	23	0	0	29	13	31	20	11	25
1014	Paul Eden	0	2	0	0	0	6	2	26	38	27
1015	Billy Greatbatch	0	2	2	2	0	8	5	19	29	15
1016	Louis Matheson	1	4	0	0	3	24	29	8	17	12
1018	Karra-Lee Nolan	1	16	0	1	15	18	22	16	14	13
1019	Tom Stindl	0	14	0	0	5	25	47	23	18	19
1020	Charlie Suters	0	2	0	0	0	17	18	25	40	35
1021	Cameron Turner	2	27	0	1	24	20	31	29	17	15
1022	Dillan Wells	0	4	0	0	3	14	29	29	31	27
1023	Luke Saldern	0	3	0	0	1	12	19	14	28	8
1024	Jack Bird	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	12	20	22
1025	Rob Morey	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	18	17	41
1026	Micheal Ford	0	2	0	0	0	5	4	8	25	13
1027	Brendan Mani	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	9	26	17
1028	Ethan Murray	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	29	0	26
1029	Ethan Klein	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	15	13
1031	Adam Siriani	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	10	14	16
1032	Blake Williams	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	9	15	16
1033	Joel Pitschider	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	0	17
1034	Mitchell Robinson	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	22
1035	Tate Hoobin	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	8	0	11

GRADE REFEREE RETIREMENTS

The NSWRLRA acknowledges the retirement in 2023 of two outstanding members.

#795 STEVE CHIDDY

Steve Chiddy had a long and successful career after being graded from Manly Warringah Referees Association. He refereed first grade, was a highly successful touch judge involved in many big games and a long serving Video Referee.

Referee Stats					
Name:		Steve Chiddy			
NRL #		5			
Role	Date	Round	Ground	Teams	
Debut	TJ	6/02/2000	1	Ericsson Stadium	Warriors vs Storm
	Ref	14/03/1998	1	Leichhardt	Balmain vs Gold Coast
	Video	11/09/2004	QF	Suncorp Stadium	Brisbane vs Melbourne
Number of Games		Role	Games	Total Games	
		TJ	325	852	
		Ref	12		
		Video	515		
Finals Games		Role	Games	Grand Finals	
		TJ	31	Role	#
		Ref	0	Ref	0
		Video	22	Video	2
Origin		Role	#	Tests	
		TJ	15	TJ	7
		Ref	0	REF	0
		Video	6	Video	10

#884 BEN CUMMINS

Highly respected Ben Cummins #884 has announced his retirement from the NRL.

Ben's long a highly successful journey commenced in Canberra started referring and made his Junior Representative referee debut at Lidcombe Oval in 1996.

Graded soon after Ben commenced a career which would see him become the highest number of NRL (first grade games) in the history of the game.

After 443 NRL games he calls it a day. Adding in his long representative career and recent Video Referee duties Ben retires with over 500 appointments including Grand Final, State of Origin and many International matches.

A fine role model for any aspiring referee.



Referee Stats					
Name:		Ben Cummins			
NRL #		79			
Role	Date	Round	Ground	Teams	
Debut	TJ	6/06/2004	13	Ericsson	New Zealand vs Raiders
	Ref	6/05/2006	9	Townsville	NQ vs Penrith
	Video	9/07/1905	22		0 0
Number of Games		Role	Games	Total Games	
		TJ	26	501	
		Ref	443		
		Video	32		
Finals Games		Role	Games	Grand Finals	
		TJ	0	Role	#
		Ref	37	TJ	0
		Video	0	Ref	5
				Video	0
Origin		Role	#	Tests	
		TJ	0	TJ	5
		Ref	14	REF	13
		Video	0	Video	0

CRLRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONOUR ROLL 1939-2021

Year	President	Deputy President / Executive Member	Vice President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
1939	J Mitten	-	G Tisdale	J Hartcher	W Guion	J Coltman
1950	H Gillard	-	H Brown	G Alyward	A Harrod	A Harrod
1951	H Gillard	-	H Brown	G Alyward	A Harrod	A Harrod
1952	H Brown	-	A Bransgrove	M Ibbotson	H Gillard	H Gillard
1953	H Brown	-	J Sharpe	K Milling	H Gillard	H Gillard
1954	H Brown	J Sharpe	K Milling	P Kelly	H Gillard	H Gillard
1955	H Brown	P Kelly	K Milling	R Ward	H Gillard	H Gillard
1956	R Ward	P Kelly	E McIlhatton	K Milling	H Gillard	H Gillard
1957	R Ward	R Baker	E McIlhatton	P Kelly	H Gillard	H Gillard
1958	R Ward	P Kelly	E McIlhatton	N Creighton	H Gillard	H Gillard
1959	R Ward	M Leary	E McIlhatton	N Spohr	H Gillard	H Gillard
1960	R Ward	J Jewell	M Leary	N Spohr	H Gillard	H Gillard
1961	R Ward	K Lyons	M Leary	J Jewell	H Gillard	H Gillard
1962	R Ward	K Lyons	J Jewell	N Spohr	H Gillard	H Gillard
1963-64	R Ward	W O'Neill	J Jewell	K Lyons	H Gillard	H Gillard
1965	R Ward	A Byrnes	J Jewell	K Lyons	H Gillard	H Gillard
1966	R Ward	N Spohr	J Jewell	K Wyer	H Gillard	H Gillard
1967	N Spohr	K Myer	B Chapman	A Byrnes	H Gillard	H Gillard
1968	N Spohr	R Edwards	B Chapman	A Byrnes	H Gillard	H Gillard
1969	N Spohr	B Chapman	R Edwards	N McAlister	H Gillard	H Gillard
1970	N Spohr	R Edwards	R Johnson	B Chapman	H Gillard	H Gillard
1971-72	N Spohr	R Edwards	A Byrnes	R Johnson	H Gillard	H Gillard
1973	N Spohr	R Edwards	A Byrnes	A Young	H Gillard	H Gillard
1974-76	N Spohr	R Edwards	A Byrnes	R Johnson	H Gillard	H Gillard
1977	N Spohr	R Edwards	A Byrnes	R Johnson	K Riolo	F Kitcher
1978	N Spohr	R Johnson	A Byrnes	T Gustard	K Riolo	F Kitcher
1979-80	N Spohr	N Best	A Byrnes	T Gustard	K Riolo	F Kitcher
1981	N Best	R Johnson	T Gustard	B Hails	K Riolo	F Kitcher
1982-83	N Best	T Gustard	R Johnson	B Hails	K Riolo	F Kitcher
1984-87	N Best	T Gustard	B Hails	L Koch	K Riolo	F Kitcher
1988 -1989	N Best	T Gustard	L Koch	G Brown	K Riolo	F Kitcher
1990 - 1992	N Best	T Gustard	L Koch	R Wiegold	K Riolo	F Kitcher
1993	N Best	T Gustard	L Koch	J Mewburn	K Riolo	F Kitcher
1994 - 2002	N Best	B Chapman	L Koch	J Mewburn	K Riolo	F Kitcher
2003 - 2009	N Best	G Turnbull	J Mewburn	A Last	K Riolo	F Kitcher
2010	N Best	G Turnbull	A Last	W Drury	K Riolo	F Kitcher
2011	N Best	G Turnbull	W Drury	K Forde	K Riolo	F Kitcher
2012	G Turnbull	W Drury	K Rayment	K Forde	K Riolo	F Kitcher
2013	W Drury	G Turnbull	S Brown	K Forde	K Rayment	F Kitcher
2014 - 2017	W Drury	K Forde	S Brown	M Edwards	K Rayment	F Kitcher
2018-2020	W Drury	K Forde	S Brown	M Edwards	G Whiddon	K Rayment
2021	W Drury	K Forde	C Smith	M Edwards	G Whiddon	K Rayment

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONOUR ROLL 1908-2002

Association Presidents

J. HOYLE & E. HOOPER	1908
E. HOOPER	1909 - 1912
T. McMAHON	1915 - 1915
A. BALLERUM	1916 - 1920
J. FARQUHAR	1921 - 1924
H. ROWLANDS	1925 - 1929
B. WALES	1930 - 1931
H. ROWLANDS	1932 - 1933
B. WALES	1934
A. DENNIS	1935 - 1942
J. GRIFFEN	1943 - 1951
C. WIGZELL	1952 - 1958
A. DAVIS	1959 - 1967
A. SHINER	1968 - 1977
L. BRUYERES	1978 - 1979
D. McDONALD	1980 - 1984
I. McCALL	1985 - 2000
T. DANKS	2001 - 2002*

*Continued as Chairman in new board structure from 2003

Association Secretaries

A. WELSH	1908
W. FINNEGAN	1909 - 1912
H. ALCORN	1913 - 1914
A. FARROW	1915
A. THORNTON	1916 - 1922
F. DELANEY	1923 - 1937
T. BRENNAN	1938 - 1962
E. COX	1963 - 1977
F. WALSH	1978 - 1983
C. TURNELL	1984 - 1985
F. WALSH	1986 - 1989
L. MATTHEWS	1990 - 2002*

*Continued as Executive Officer in new board structure from 2003

Association Treasurers

G. BOSS	1908
A. WELSH	1909
A. BALLERUM	1910 - 1912
A. FARROW	1913 - 1914
C. YARD	1915
B. YARD	1916
V. DICKINSON	1917 - 1922
H. MILLINGTON	1923 - 1941
H. MILLINGTON & C. WARD	1942
H. MILLINGTON	1943 - 1966
O. COHEN	1957 - 1978
J. GOCHER	1979 - 1983
P. LONGHURST	1984 - 1985
M. STONE	1986
G. LEE	1987 - 1989
P. FILMER	1990 - 1998
P. KALINA	1999 - 2002*

*Continued as Director of Finance in new board structure from 2003



Eric Cox Former Secretary



Ted Hooper Inaugural President



Ian McCall Current Patron and former Chairman



Dennis Spagarino former Chairman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONOUR ROLL 2003-2015

YEAR	CHAIRMAN	EXECUTIVE OFFICER	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	DIRECTOR OF REFEREE DEVELOPMENT	DIRECTOR OF AFFILIATE LIAISON	DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES	DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATION
2003	T Danks	L Matthews	P Kalina	D Spagarino	B Gilchrist	T Healy	J Robinson
2004	T Danks	L Matthews	P Kalina	D Spagarino	B Gilchrist	A Farlow	J Robinson
2005	T Danks	L Matthews	P Kalina	D Spagarino	D Keen	A Farlow	J Robinson
2006	T Danks	L Matthews	P Kalina	P Filmer	D Keen	A Farlow	S Clark
2007	D Spagarino	L Matthews	D Alchin	P Filmer	G Jackson	L Bugden	T Healy
2008	D Spagarino	L Matthews	D Alchin	G McCallum	G Jackson	L Bugden	G Jankowski
2009	D Spagarino	F Leonard	D Alchin	G McCallum	G Jackson	L Bugden	G Jankowski
2010	D Spagarino	F Leonard	D Alchin	G McCallum	D Keen	L Bugden	G Jankowski
2011	D Spagarino	F Leonard	J Oliveira	G McCallum	D Keen	L Bugden	G Jankowski
2012	C Ward	F Leonard	J Oliveira	G McCallum/ S Hayne/G Badger	D Keen	J Stone	G Jankowski
2013	M Stone	F Leonard	J Oliveira	T De Las Heras	D Keen	L Bugden	G Jankowsk
2014	P Simpkins	F Leonard	J Oliveira	G McCallum	D Keen	L Bugden	G Jankowski
2015	P Simpkins	F Leonard	J Oliveira	M Hewitt	D Keen	L Bugden	G Jankowski

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONOUR ROLL 2016-2021

The Board structure changed in 2016 with a reduction in members with changes to Director roles

YEAR	CHAIRMAN	EXECUTIVE OFFICER	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	DIRECTOR OF REFEREE DEVELOPMENT & AFFILIATE LIAISON	DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES, MARKETING & COMMUNICATION
2016	P Simpkins	F Leonard	D Gocher	M Hewitt	B Wood/T Robinson
2017	P Simpkins	F Leonard	D Gocher	M Hewitt	T Robinson (resigned in May) M Jones (appointed in August)
2018	P Simpkins	M Jones (Resigned in February) P Filmer (Appointed in March)	M Hewitt	S Clapson	F Lehane
2019	P Filmer	F Lehane	M Hewitt	S Clapson	G Jankowski
2020	P Filmer	F Lehane (Resigned in February) G McCallum (Appointed in February)	M Hewitt	S Clapson	D Briscoe
2021	P Filmer	G. McCallum	M Hewitt	S Clapson	N/A

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONOUR ROLL 2022-2023

YEAR	INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON	DIRECTOR FINANCE & GOVERNANCE	DIRECTOR COMMUNICATION, MARKETING & SOCIAL	DIRECTOR(S) COACHING & DEVELOPMENT	DIRECTOR(S) AFFILIATE LIAISON & WELFARE	EXECUTIVE OFFICER
2022	Kevin Greene	Matthew Hewitt	Peter Filmer	Steve Clapson & William Drury	Geoff Whiddon & Kevin Forde	Greg McCallum
2023	Kevin Greene	Matthew Hewitt Mark Holton (from June 2023)	Peter Filmer	Steve Clapson & William Drury	Geoff Whiddon & Kevin Forde	Greg McCallum

MAJOR APPOINTMENTS 2023



NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL

Penrith Panthers v Brisbane Broncos

Referee: Adam Gee
Touch Judges: Chris Sutton, David Munro
Bunker Review Official: Ashley Klein



NRL Telstra Grand Final



TARSHA GALE CUP

Sydney Roosters v Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs

Referee: Lachlan Greenfield
Touch Judges: Matthew Gomes, Cody Simmons
In Goal Judges: Aiden Richardson, Olivia Lawne



Tarsha Gale Cup Grand Final 2023



NRL TELSTRA WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL

Newcastle Knights v Gold Coast Titans

Referee: Belinda Sharpe
Touch Judges: Rochelle Tamarua, Mitch Currie
Bunker Review Official: Kasey Badger



SG BALL CUP

Newcastle Knights v Parramatta Eels

Referee: Brayden Hunt
Touch Judges: Logan Nielson, Tobi Holder
In Goal Judges: Jack Gerrie, Brodie Rushby



HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs v Newcastle Knights

Referee: Curtis Robinson
Touch Judges: Issac El- Hassan, Jake Walsh
In Goal Judges: Marco Levy, Salvatore Marigliano



NRL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

South Sydney Rabbitohs v Brisbane Tigers

Referee: Wyatt Raymond
Touch Judges: Tyson Brough, Cameron Paddy
Bunker Review Official: Chris Butler



Harold Matthews Cup Grand Final 2023



NRL State Championship

MAJOR APPOINTMENTS 2023



HARVEY NORMAN WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL Mounties v Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs

Referee: Ryan Micallef
Touch Judges: William Damato, Cage Miles
In Goal Judges: Rhianna Borg, Rami-Abu Mansour



Harvey Norman Womens Premiership Grand Final



AMPOL STATE OF ORIGIN 1 New South Wales v Queensland

Referee: Ashley Klein
Touch Judges: Drew Oultram, Phil Henderson
Bunker Review Official: Grant Atkins



Ampol State of Origin 1



AMPOL STATE OF ORIGIN 2 New South Wales v Queensland

Referee: Ashley Klein
Touch Judges: Drew Oultram, David Munro
Bunker Review Official: Grant Atkins



Ampol State of Origin 2



AMPOL STATE OF ORIGIN 3 New South Wales v Queensland

Referee: Ashley Klein
Touch Judges: David Munro, Phil Henderson
Bunker Review Official: Grant Atkins



Ampol State of Origin 3

REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS 2023



AMPOL WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN 1 Queensland v New South Wales

Referee: Adam Gee
Touch Judges: David Munro, Belinda Sharpe
Bunker Review Official: Kasey Badger



AMPOL WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN 2 Queensland v New South Wales

Referee: Belinda Sharpe
Touch Judges: Darian Furner, Wyatt Raymond
Bunker Review Official: Kasey Badger



CITY V COUNTRY MEN'S

Referee: Daniel Luttringer
Touch Judges: Brad Kiehne, Cameron Mitchell

CITY V COUNTRY WOMEN'S

Referee: Karra-Lee Nolan
Touch Judges: Liam Nicholls, Mitch Currie
In-Goal Judges: Micheal Ford, Ben Seppala



City v Country Men's Grand Final



City v Country Women's Grand Final

WOMEN'S COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Referee: Mitchell Pitscheider
Touch Judges: Reece Sammut, Will Flint
In-Goal Judges: Indiana Manion, Ruby Keen



Women's Country Championship Grand Final

REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS 2023



CITY V COUNTRY BOYS U16'S

Referee: Bailey Warren
Touch Judges: Baluun Simon, Tom Lidbury



City v Country Boys U16 Grand Final

CITY V COUNTRY GIRLS U17'S

Referee: Rhianna Boag
Touch Judges: Ruby Keen, Aden Hayward



City v Country Girls U17 Grand Final

CITY V COUNTRY BOYS U18'S

Referee: Brayden Hunt
Touch Judges: Logan Nielsen, Tobi Holder



City v Country Boys U18 Grand Final

CITY V COUNTRY BOYS U19'S

Referee: Nathan Hillier
Touch Judges: Olivia Lawne, Marco Levy



City v Country Girls U19 Grand Final

REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS 2023



NSW Cup Grand Final

NSW CUP GRAND FINAL

South Sydney Rabbitohs v North Sydney Bears

Referee: Cameron Paddy
Touch Judges: Tom Cambourn, Nick Beashel
In-Goal Judges: Paul Eden, Martin Jones
Bunker Review Official: Liam Kennedy



Jersey Flegg Cup Grand Final

JERSEY FLEGG CUP GRAND FINAL

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs v Sydney Roosters

Referee: Kieren Irons
Touch Judges: Nathan Loveday, Liam Nicholls
In-Goal Judges: Michael Ford, Tom Stindl



Sydney Shield Grand Final

NSWRL SYDNEY SHIELD GRAND FINAL

St Mary's v Hills Bulls

Referee: Daniel Luttringer
Touch Judges: Mitchell Stone, Cameron Mitchell
In-Goal Judges: Louis Matheson, Charlie Suters

REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS 2023

NSWRL RON MASSEY CUP GRAND FINAL Wentworthville v St Marys

Referee: Clayton Wills
Touch Judges: Brad Kiehne, Ben Teague
In-Goal Judges: Dillon Wells, Luke Saldern



Ron Massey Cup Grand Final 2023

PRESIDENTS CUP GRAND FINAL St Mary's v Maitland Pickers

Referee: Damian Brady
Touch Judges: Karra-Lee Nolan, Cameron Turner
In-Goal Judges: Louis Matheson, Dillan Wells



Laurie Daley Cup Grand Final



Andrew Johns Cup Final

MINUTES OF THE 115TH AGM

Wednesday 22 February 2023

**Brad Fittler Lounge
NSWRL Centre of Excellence
12 Dawn Fraser Ave Sydney Olympic Park, NSW**

The meeting was opened at 8pm by the Chairman Kevin Greene who welcomed all of those in attendance in person and those on joining the meeting on Zoom.

Apologies

were noted as per the attendance sheets.

The Executive Officer confirmed delegates both in the meeting in person and on Zoom as to who was registered in the case of a ballot.

A minute's silence was observed for those members who had passed away since the previous AGM.

The Minutes of the 114th Annual General Meeting as presented in the Annual Report were moved Geoff Whiddon seconded by Kevin Forde and carried unanimously.

There was no Correspondence received related to the AGM.

Chairman's Address

The Chairman Kevin Greene outlined a year of success after the amalgamation in early 2022 and congratulated the elected Directors representing both the Metropolitan and Regional in the positive way that business was conducted.

He further thanked the associations which number twenty-nine across the state for their outstanding work in providing great support for referees to perform the important role that they have in allowing games to be played. He noted the many sacrifices that are made to ensure nearly all games have official referees.

Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Officer also thanked the Chairman and Board for their leadership as well as the sound communication that was developing across the Associations across the state. He also acknowledged the important role of the NRL Development Officers in assisting with communication and also the roles of the appointed High-Performance staff in the NSWRL to enable members every opportunity to reach their refereeing goal.

Presentation & Adoption of the 115th Annual Report of the NSWRLRA

The Executive Officer spoke at length on the 115th Annual Report of the NSWRLRA which is a very historic document being the first of the amalgamated body. Of particular satisfaction was the inclusion of a report from every association (29 in total).

The Annual Report documents the activities and achievements of the members of the NSWRLRA in some details and over time becomes the historic record of season 2022.

Life Member Brien Gately spoke to and moved the adoption of the 115th Annual Report and congratulated the Executive Officer on his efforts in compiling a thorough and interesting document.

It was moved Brien Gateley seconded Tony Kelly that the 115th Annual Report of the NSWRLRA be adopted. It was carried unanimously.

Presentation & Adoption of the Financial Statement and Accounts of the NSWRLRA

Finance Director Matt Hewitt presented the Audited Financial Accounts of the Association. The Association still had to account for funds being transferred from the CRLRA and these will be reflected in the next Financial Report.

Moved Peter Longhurst Seconded Peter Filmer that the Audited Financial Statement and Accounts be adopted. It was carried unanimously.

There were no Notices of Motion.

Life Member Nomination

The Board of Directors endorsed a nomination for Bill Harrigan OAM to be presented to the membership for elevation to the position of Life Member of the NSWRLRA.

Moved Brian Barry, Seconded Brien Gateley the nomination was put to the meeting by Chairman Kevin Greene and carried unanimously. Bill became Life Member #165.

Honorariums

The Membership considered Honorariums for the Board. Honorariums were agreed upon. The Chairman declined an honorarium.

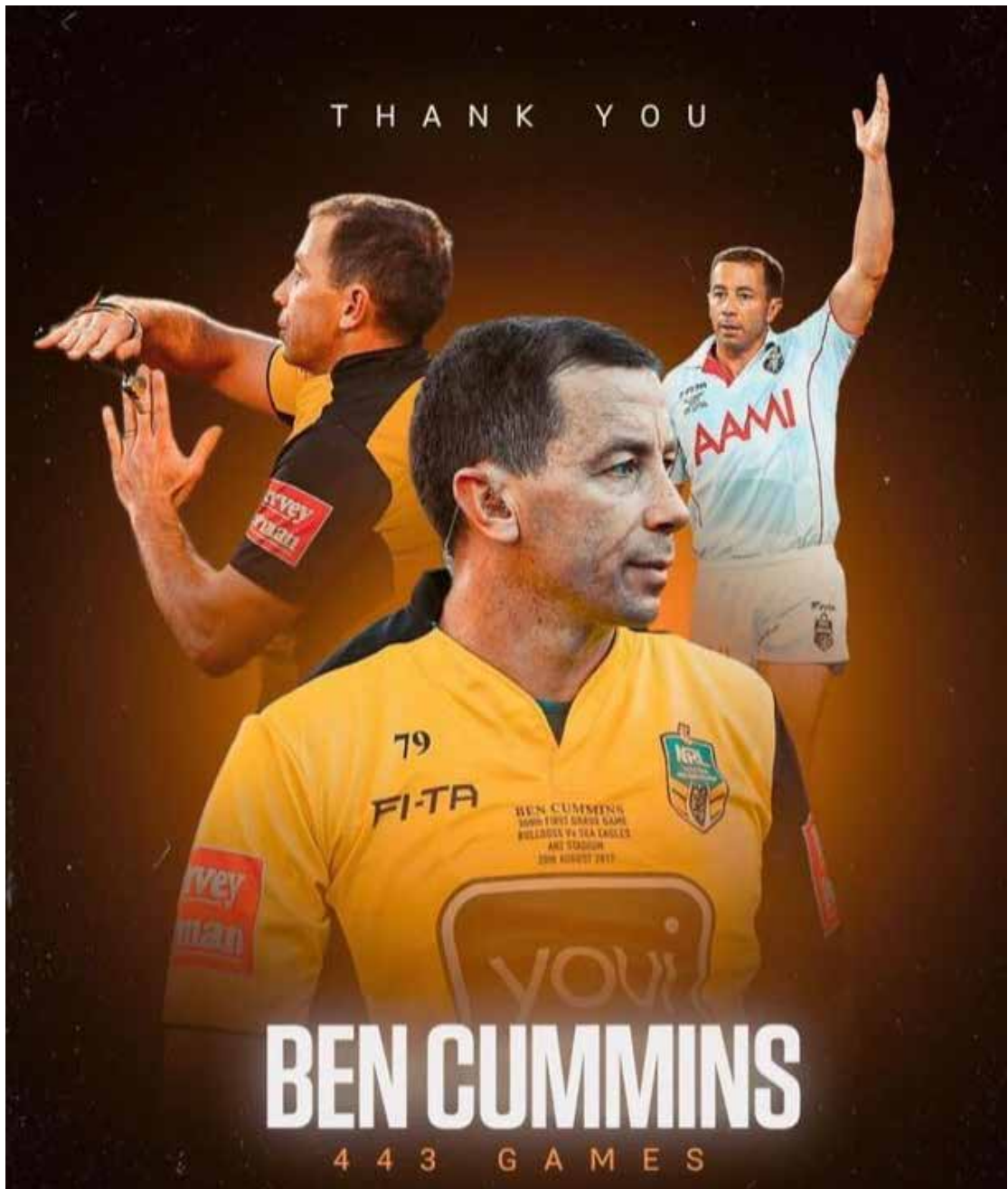
The AGM closed at 8.35pm.

Members are invited to join the Board and guests for refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting.

Greg McCallum JP
Executive officer



Life Member Bill Harrigan at the 115th Annual General Meeting



MEMBERSHIP RECORD 1908-2023

1	BALLERUM ARTHUR	84	BOLTON	167	THOMPSON J	250	LATTA J	333	ARMSTRONG B	416	WEBSTER J
2	BOSS GEORGE	85	BURROWS	168	TOBY V	251	MCGRATH CHRIS	334	ARNOLD K	417	WUNCH G
3	BRODIE T	86	CAMPBELL	169	BOSSI SYDNEY	252	MOSES LOU	335	COHEN M	418	BLOOMFIELD T
4	BROWN A H	87	CLARENCE	170	BRANNIGHAN MICK	253	ORGAN G	336	COOPER W	419	DAVIS C
5	BUCHANAN J	88	COHEN	171	COHEN S	254	OXFORD R	337	GOSS EDDIE	420	DOWLING T
6	BURDEN	89	DAVIS	172	COX P	255	POTTER W	338	HARRISON V	421	GRAHAM W
7	COSTELLO TOM	90	DICKINSON V	173	CRANTITCH C	256	TIERNAN R	339	LYNCH J	422	GRIFFIN HENRY
8	CULLAN	91	DOYLE I	174	FREEMAN G	257	YORKE CHARLES	340	MUSGRAVE R	423	HOLT ALBY
9	DUFFIN R	92	FAYE SPEL	175	GLAZEBROOK T	258	ELDERS F	341	NEARY A	424	LOWE J
10	FARROW ARTHUR	93	FISCHER	176	JACKSON S	259	HAYCOX SAM	342	PERRY M	425	MARONEY J
11	FINIGAN WILLIAM	94	FORD	177	JOLLY S	260	MACQUARIE H	343	OBRIEN JACK	426	MORONEY JACK
12	FROST VINCE	95	GARRETT	178	KENNY G	261	MALONEY B	344	SOUTHCOMBE H	427	PIERCE HARRY
13	GILTINAN	96	GILMORE G	179	LEA V	262	MALONEY M	345	SHINER AUSTIN	428	SCULLY E
14	HANDEN L	97	HILL	180	MASON	263	MORRIS S	346	WATSON A	429	SHEPHERD ROBERT
15	HAY G	98	HOOD	181	MILLER JOE	264	OGILVEY J	347	CHARLTON F	430	TAAFFE E
16	HENLEN FRED	99	HOWELL	182	MURRAY JOHN	265	TURNER J	348	CARRICK HARRY	431	TAYLOR G
17	HOOPER EDWARD	100	JARVIS	183	SULLIVAN C	266	LUPTON A	349	HALL ALBERT	432	CARTER MAX
18	HOYLE	101	KENDALL	184	TOST V	267	BARNES F	350	HALL R M	433	MILLS JIM
19	HUTCHINSON CHARLIE	102	KENNEDY	185	AGNEW	268	KELL K	351	MCMILLAN A	434	RANDLE LEO
20	KNOX	103	KING	186	BROGAN S	269	BATES J	352	ODGEN FRANK	435	SHORTALL J
21	LARKIN TED	104	MCDONALD J	187	BROWN O	270	PAINE R	353	QUINLIVAN C	436	SPENCER WILLIAM
22	MCCABE T	105	MCGRAW JOSEPH	188	BUCKLEY ERIC	271	MCGAULEY JOE	354	SINCLAIR N	437	WILDE L
23	MCDERMONT	106	MCINTOSH T	189	COHEN J	272	BOWAN D	355	SKINNER T	438	WALEN BADEN JNR
24	MESSENGER DALLY	107	MIDDLETON	190	EDENBOROUGH H	273	SPANKIE ALEX	356	WELLS M	439	WALSH FRANK
25	MOORE H	108	MILLS	191	GRIFFEN J	274	WARD R J	357	ALBERT T	440	WINCHESTER JACK
26	MUNN WILLIAM F	109	NORTON	192	KERR EDDIE	275	BOWEN W	358	ALLEN L	441	BOWEN JACK
27	OVERG	110	NUTT	193	PHELAN T	276	COHEN OS	359	DONOVON A	442	DOUGLAS E
28	ODBERT H	111	OBRIEN	194	PURVIS C	277	COLLINS ARTHUR	360	GOLDSMITH P	443	EDMONDS W
29	OFARRELL	112	POWDITCH	195	SHEEHY T	279	DAVIS A	361	HARRISON E	444	GRIFFITHS PADDY
30	PHELAN	113	REES	196	SHIRLEY H	280	DAVIS ARTHUR	362	HODGE A	445	KENT A
31	PLUMB A	114	ROGERS C	197	SMALL C	281	DENNIS A	363	IVERS J	446	LINDSAY ERIC
32	POULTON M	115	SWEENEY	198	EDWARDS A	281	ERWIN R	364	KIRBY J	447	LOW A
33	ROHAN P	116	VICKERY W	199	FRY WILLIAM	282	HEYDON V	365	KELLY JACK	448	NICHOLSON E J
34	SEABROOK GEORGE	117	WATTERS	200	GROVES W	283	HIBBARD RON	366	ROONEY R	449	ROACH J
35	STANTON P A	118	WOODLEY	201	MAHER W	284	HORAN R	367	OXFORD AUB	450	TINSLEY ERNIE
36	TREAMEN J	119	YARD	202	MCGRABE B	285	MATTHEWS F	368	WRIGHT C	451	TURBRIDY J
37	TREANOR J	120	FRANKS	203	QHALLARAN G	286	PAINE E	369	DAVIES J	452	TYE E
38	TRUMPER VICTOR	121	KEMP SPELL	204	QUINLAN J	287	PONCHARD D	370	GALBRAITH A	453	COWLEY BERT
39	WELCH AUB C	122	BARKER	205	RYAN V	288	WALSH H	371	KNIGHT A	454	CUMMINS ROB
40	WILLIAMSON	123	BROSON	206	WIRTH G	289	WOODS A	372	MASON JACK	455	EDMONDS C
41	WOODHILL H	124	DICKENSON VIC	207	ALLAN A	290	CHIPPENDALE T	373	LAWLER DARCY	456	HAYES C
42	BRYCE	125	DUNLOP	208	DOLAN A	291	CLICKSON T	374	LEFFLER TERRY	457	MOSES CYRIL
43	HENNESSEY A	126	FRANKLIN A	209	KELLY J	292	FIFIELD A BERT	375	PATTERSON J	458	REES W
44	JORGE	127	HANSEN L	210	LONG W	293	GRIFFIN JIM	376	WARD W	459	ROSEWELL N
45	MARTIN	128	IREDALE W	211	GREEN E	294	MCLEOD A	377	PEARCE GEORGE	460	VALLER BOB
46	MURRAY	129	KEARNEY LAURIE	212	GREEN W	295	MURRAY V	378	DECARLE L	461	WHITE W
47	POWELL	130	MCNAMEE R	213	LAWLER MATT	296	ROSEN L	379	HALL F	462	BRICE J
48	WHITBREAD T	131	MILLINGTON HORRIE	214	WIGZELL CYRIL	297	STEWART D	380	PULBROOK WILLIAM	463	BUTCHER R
49	ADAMS	132	NEGUS C	215	BUTLER T	298	SUMMERHAYES ERNIE	381	WILLIAMS LES	464	CONNELL T
50	ASHER	133	RINUSCHNIDER	216	ROBB F	299	WALKER C	382	CULKIN ROBERT	465	CRAWFORD TOMAS
51	BOYD GEORGE	134	DAVIDSON A	217	SCHUTEMA H	300	BECK L	383	GREW TOM	466	CZISZ FRED
52	CALLUM	135	FITZPATRICK B	218	SPRING F	301	CAVES H	384	HALLWOOD G	467	DEVINE WILLIAM JNR
53	CARROLL	136	HARRISON	219	THOMPSON R	302	COSTELLO	385	BROWN M J	468	ERICKSON FRED
54	CLIFFORD	137	HEFFERNAN C	220	WALEN	303	MANSFIELD J	386	COHEN WILLIAM	469	JACKMAN BRUCE
55	COOPER	138	KEARNEY L	221	BROWN J	304	PHEGHAN ALBERT	387	COLLINS D	470	MATTEWS C
56	EDWARDS R	139	PIPER S	222	CASEY H	305	TENNANT A	388	CUBIS C	471	STOKES J
57	ELLIOTT HERB	140	SHEEN L	223	FLETCHER TED	306	ADAMS J	389	FITTER S	472	CAMPBELL K
58	GOUNDRIE	141	THORNTON ARTHUR	224	GRAY BERT	307	BEAMAN G	390	FREW TRELL C	473	CAREY R
59	HARDING O	142	DALTON S	225	LEONARD R	308	EMERY A	391	MASON L	474	EZART TOM
60	HARDWRIGHT	143	GOULDING V	226	VAUGHAN S	309	BISHOP GEORGE	392	MORGAN H	475	FISHER R
61	HEDLEY CHARLIE	144	MCGREGOR	227	BRENNAN TOM	310	GOLD D	393	PARSONS J	476	KONNECKE ARTHUR
62	HERMAN	145	MULLINS	228	CLARKE J	311	HOGAN M	394	WALSH E	477	MARTIN JOHN
63	HOUGHTON	146	ROWLANDS H	229	ERWIN J	312	MEGSON J	395	BROWN CLIFF	478	PARKINSON KEITH
64	JOHNSON	147	SINCLAIR E	230	HEWARTH W	313	MOFFITT J	396	CAREY STEVE	479	BANKS N
65	KNOWLES	148	NEILL WILLIAM	231	HILLIER J	314	MOSES JOE BEM	397	CHAMBERS A J	480	DENGATE ALEX
66	LEES	149	RUSSELL CHARLES	232	IRVINE H	315	STORRIER E	398	COLLYER ALBERT	481	JEWELL JACK
67	LINDSAY	150	CODY R	233	LEE PH	316	CAMERON W	399	FEW TREE C	482	NEVILLE ARTHUR
68	MACKENZIE	151	DELANEY FRANK	234	MASTERS L	317	CAVEIK H	400	HYDE FRANK	483	ORME JOHN
69	MCBURNIE	152	FARQUHAR J	235	MC FARLANE W	318	FITZPATRICK G	401	NICHOLSON DUDLEY	484	ADAM F
70	MCCULLUM	153	O'MALLEY LARRY	236	MCLEAN G	319	COLE W	402	PEARCE COL	485	BROCK ROBERT
71	MELVILLE	154	SHIRLEY C	237	MEINRATH VIC	320	GRIFFIN GEORGE	403	STEWART W	486	CLUBB KEITH
72	NORMAN F	155	TERRY	238	MURPHY JOE	321	HAINES W	404	BELLEW TOM JOE	487	COFFEY JOE
73	OSHEA	156	FINNEGAN L	239	ROBINSON GEORGE	322	HARDY N	405	CLUNE B	488	FRANCIS J
74	PETHERBRIDGE	157	FINNEGAN W	240	SAMPSON N	323	HAWSON V	406	COUCH K	489	O'CONNOR JAMES
75	RILEY	158	MORGAN W	241	SEYMOUR W	324	MAY G	407	CUMMINGS DICK	490	SAMUELSON LES
76	ROBERTSON	159	SHOEBRIDGE C	242	TAIT R	325	MCMAHON TOM JNR	408	DENGATE ALEX	491	SCHOMBERG COLIN
77	ROSWELL	160	UNWIN T	243	TIERNAN L	326	BRATTON DON	409	DOWN R	492	BRADY N
78	SCHOFIELDS M	161	BLACKER J	244	BAGGETT LEO	327	CUKE WILLIAM	410	EEDY JACK	493	BUCKINGHAM BRUCE
79	SCOTT	162	BYRNES J	245	BARRETT C	328	DEVINE BILL	411	MCGUINNESS VINCE	494	COOK TED
80	SHAW EDDIE	163	DEANE LAL	246	BENNETTS J	329	RIGHETTI L	412	ODONNELL RAY	495	DAVIS T
81	TANNER W	164	DRAKE R H MB	247	CHRISTIE A	330	RUSSELL L	413	POWELL LES	496	HEDGER GORDON
82	ALCORN H	165	EMMETT G	248	CLAMBACK GEORGE	331	WARD C	414	SHIPWAY A	497	KELLY WILLIAM
83	BLACK JOE	166	SEAGE C	249	LATTA ALF	332	SMYTHE RAY	415	TARRANT M	498	KEOUGH KEVIN

499 LANCASHIRE DON	591 BOWEN PAT	682 RUDY H	774 WARD EDDIE	866 HARRADINE MICHAEL	956 MURRAY SCOT
500 McMILLAN R	592 BUCKLEY LYLE	683 YARD JOHN	775 WILLIAMS ROSS	867 HAYNE SHAYNE	957 NICHOLLS LIAM
501 NEILL B	593 EDWARDS MERV	684 HEYLBUT WILLIAM	776 CLARK STEVE	868 SPROULE DON	958 CROMBIE-BROWN
502 PARKINSON JE	594 GILCHRIST CARL	685 BLOMFIELD JOHN	777 HAMPSTEAD SEAN	869 YOUNIS JEFF	PETER
503 TIBBLES F	595 GRONO BILL	686 HAYMER DAVE	778 JAY DAVID	870 ADAMS DAVID	959 KING GAVIN
504 TIPPER P	596 HUMPHRIES RICHARD	687 GRADY MICHAEL	779 JEFFES KELVIN	871 ASTILL DAVID	960 STONE MITCHELL
505 WHYBROW JOHN	597 MAHER GARY	688 HOLWELL KIM	780 KELLY PETER	872 JACKSON GLENN	961 LUCAS BRENDAN
506 GREW J	598 McCOLL JACK	689 SPAGARINO DENNIS	781 MANDER TIM	873 ROBINSON JENNIFER	962 BRISCOE-HOUGH
507 SOANE A	599 MCJANNETT RON	690 KELLY GREG	782 MCCORMACK JOHN	874 SCIBERRAS PETER	DAMIAN
508 BARRY BRIAN	600 EDWARDS CLIVE	691 THOMPSON MICHAEL	783 MELVILLE JOHN	875 WALSH JASON	963 HARTUP JEFF
509 BRUYERES LAURIE	601 MCCALL IAN	692 WEEKES MARTIN	784 OATEN MARK	876 CASTLE PETER	964 OULTRAM DREW
510 COX ERIC	602 MCCARROLL PHIL	693 ALLARD KEVIN	785 TURVEY DAVID	877 JONES MICHAEL	965 SUNG PHILIP
511 SAUNDERS E	603 MCLEAN DES	694 BETTS STEVE	786 DANKS TONY	878 KEEN DOUG	966 TRENEMAN CHRIS
512 DENNY J	604 MORIATAS NICK	695 DAVIS KEN	787 LAWS STEVE	879 MILDWATER KEN	967 BRESLIN FAYE
513 HINCHCLIFFE C	605 WISEMAN BRIAN	696 HEATON GRANT	788 LEONARD FRANK	880 RYE BRAD	968 MCGOWAN JOSH
514 HIRD A	606 BENNETT GARY	697 SMITH IAN WILLIAM	789 PORTSMOUTH SCOTT	881 SUTTON GERARD	969 SMITH TODD
515 NELSON AL	607 COOK GARY	698 PICARD ROSS	790 PEET TOM	882 BAILEY GERARD	970 WILLIAMS REECE
516 PERRY ALBERT	608 CRIPPS BARRY	699 COLWELL JOHN	791 LEWIS MICK	883 BUGDEN LUKE	971 BEST ROHAN
517 RILEY M	609 HENSELY ROSS	700 JONES COLIN	792 SULTANA RAY	884 CUMMINS BEN	972 CINI TRENT
518 HIRD N	610 KEOGH W	701 MCMAHON PHILLIP	793 BELGRE JOHN	885 LANG DARRYN	973 VELLA JAMES
519 HUDSON COL	611 PARDEY DOUG	702 HOWELL MICHAEL	794 BROWN RILEY	886 MEREDITH BRETT	974 FURNER DARIAN
520 JENNISON K	612 TIECEHURST JOE	703 MOON PETER	795 CHIDDY STEVE	887 BETTS PETER	975 IRONS KEIREN
521 JOHNSON BERNIE	613 WARNER RAY	704 ROBERTSON GRAHAM	796 DOUGLAS CRAIG	888 EASTWOOD DAN	976 TEAGUE BEN
522 LAWLESS RAY	614 BARNES BARRY	705 RYAN MICHAEL	797 FARLOW ALAN	889 FAJAJO MOHAMED	977 BOHAN MARK
523 MCREYNOLDS LES	615 BRAYBROOK DENNIS	706 RYAN PETER	798 HENDERSON GLYN	890 HAINES PHIL	978 CLEVELAND-DELAND
524 MONGOMERY JOHN	616 COLLINS ASHLEY	707 SMITH VINCE	799 GREG BILL	891 MAXWELL JARED	TAYLOR
525 TAYLOR RALPH	617 GOCHER JOHN	708 BISSETT NOEL	800 HOFFMAN MITCHELL	892 SHORTALL ALAN	979 SIMES DAMIEN
526 TERRY J	618 GOLDSWORTHY	709 COOLEY PHIL	801 MAHER NEIL	893 SMITH DARREN	980 TRENEMAN MATTHEW
527 WINTER BARRY	BARRY	710 ELIAS GEORGE	802 MAKSOD ANTHONY	894 SUTTON BERNARD	981 HINTON MARK
528 BOWMAN RUSSEL	619 GRAY KEN	711 HERD GRAEME	803 MURRAY PETER	895 TOLAND GLENN	982 KARAM FERAS
529 DIMON CYRIL	620 OKEEFE JOHN	712 HIGSON COL	804 OMALLEY MICHAEL	896 YATES GREG	983 MCHATTON SHAUN
530 HANSEN J	621 PEARSON WILLIAM	713 BARSLEY DAVID	805 WOODWARD SHANE	897 DAIZLI RICHARD	984 PACKER LYNDASAY
531 WILLIAMS STAN	622 WINTIN DOUG	714 HOLTON MARK	806 DUNCAN PAUL	898 DEVCICH ADAM	985 ROBINSON TIM
532 BOLT A	623 BEACROFT MICHAEL	715 KEENAHAN BARRY	807 FIELD PAUL	899 MCFARLANE RICKY	986 VAN DE MOOSDYK
533 BROOKS L	624 BISSETT JOHN	716 LAW COL	808 FIELDER SEAN	900 JAMES CHRIS	DARREN
534 GODFREY MAX	625 BRAIN GEORGE	717 MCCALLUM GREG	809 HEALY TOM	901 MURPHY SCOTT	987 JONES MARTIN
535 JEFFES KEVIN	626 DELAUNEY TOM	718 MARTIN STEPHEN	810 LOUDEN CHRIS	902 NEALE ADAM	988 HANNON TIM
536 MARTIN B	627 HARTLEY GREG	719 O'DONNELL GILES	811 MCBLANE PAUL	903 POTTER LUKE	989 BURTENSHAW
537 MARTIN C	628 GUNNEE GEORGE	720 O'KEEFE DAVE	812 MANSON DAVID	904 DELVECCHIO SILVIO	DARREN
538 MCINTOSH ROBERT	629 KANDELLAS BOB	721 PICKARD KEITH	813 RYAN MARTIN	905 EVANS SHAUN	990 WHEELER ANDREW
539 MORRIS ROWLEY	630 PIERSE PETER	722 SKEED ANTHONY	814 TRACY CRAIG	906 HENRY ANGUS	991 MITCHELL CAMERON
540 OSULLIVAN JACK	631 ROBERTS KEVIN	723 TYRELL STEVE	815 BROOKS DEAN	907 KIRBY PETER	992 CONSTANTINE DANNY
541 PEPPER TED	632 PIERSE RITCHIE S	724 WEST GRAEME	816 CLOSE WAYNE	908 MCHATTON BRENTON	993 POVAH KEITH
542 STEWART J	633 SEE ALAN	725 WHITE COLIN	817 DIGBY PETER	909 ZAPANTIS ANDREW	994 MACKAY PATRICK
543 WALLER KEVIN	634 DANZEY JACK	726 BLACK ANDREW	818 LEE GARY	910 REYNOLDS GAVIN	995 PADDY CAMERON
544 WILLIS ALAN	635 KENDALL BARRY	727 HARRIGAN WILLIAM J	819 MACINANTE PAUL	911 SMITH RUSSELL	996 SUTHERLAND JAKE
545 BENSON GEORGE	636 McALISTER NOEL	728 HEWITT MATT	820 LEIS RUSSEL	912 BOWEN ROBERT	997 WALTERS RYAN
546 BRADLEY JACK	637 McDONNELL ROB	729 EVANS KEN	821 CARRALL STEVE	913 WEST GAVIN	998 WEST JOSIAH
547 CHAPMAN D	638 MITCHELL J	730 LUCAS PETER	822 CLAPSON STEVE	914 YATES MELISSA	999 EID JOSEPH
548 COLE ARTHUR	639 WEBBER BRIAN	731 MCKEAN ALLAN	823 GOCHER DARREN	915 DAMASO MAT	1000 GILCHRIST ANDREW
549 FISHER FRANK	640 NORBERRY GEOFF	732 MILLER PAUL	824 SIMPKINS PAUL	916 MUNRO DAVID	1001 WILLS CLAYTON
550 DICK REG	641 REYNOLDS JOHN	733 O'NEILL MICHAEL	825 KALINA PAUL	917 REID ADAM	1002 CAMBOURN THOMAS
551 HARRIS JACK	642 TURNELL COL	734 SNARE JEFF	826 VILLA SEAN	918 OLIVEIRA JIMMY	1003 MCRAE ANDREW
552 JONES WILLIAM	643 APPS BRUCE	735 BOYD GREG	827 ABOOD DAVID	919 ATKINS GRANT	1004 LOVEDAY NATHAN
553 KELLAHAN G	644 BRADSTOCK BARRY	736 BUNGATE PETER	828 ALEXANDER ROBERT	920 GEE ADAM	1005 KIEHNE BRAD
554 WESTON A	645 GARWOOD ROBERT	737 CASSIDY MICHAEL	829 ARCHER TONY	921 BERRY DANIELLE	1006 BOURKE STEPHEN
555 WESTON WILLIAM	646 GOBITS ROBERT	738 HAINES GARY	830 CADDY ALAN	922 HIGGINS JASON	1007 LUTTRINGER DANIEL
556 AGGETT ALAN	647 PATTEN NOEL	739 HARRADINE PAUL	831 CECCHIN MATT	923 ELKINS JASON	1008 MANI JOEL
557 ALEXANDER JOHN	648 SEMMINS ROBERT	740 BILTON MICHAEL	832 FIELDING ROD	924 HILL NATHAN	1009 BRADY DAMIEN
558 CONOR J	649 GREEN LIONEL	741 KIDDLE ROBERT	833 HOUSTEN PHIL	925 SUTTON CHRIS	1010 HECKENDORF LUKE
559 FARRELLY JOHN	650 CISLOWSKI NOEL	742 PARNABY IAN	834 JADWAT MOGSHEEN	926 KIDD GREG	1011 TYLER DEAN
560 FITTON PETER	651 GOLD PETER	743 RUSSELL KEVIN	835 LYNCH BRETT	927 WOOD BRENDEN	1012 BUTLER JOEY
561 JACOBSON JACK	652 BOWRON DAVID	744 FILMER PETER	836 LOGAN BILL	928 SHARPE DAVID	1013 CURRIE MITCHELL
562 LANE GEORGE	653 COLENJO JOHN	745 STYLES ROBERT	837 LOVEDAY WAYNE	929 SUTTOR BRETT	1014 EDEN PAUL
563 LEE GARY	654 LONGHURST PETER	746 TAYLOR MICHAEL	838 STONE BRUCE	930 HAWKINS MATTHEW	1015 GREATBATCH BILLY
564 McDONALD DON	655 MATTHEWS LES	747 GEGG KEITH	839 LYONS STEVE	931 HENDERSON PHIL	1016 MATHESON LOUIS
565 MANTON KEN	656 KEEBLE MICHAEL	748 GILCHRIST BRYAN	840 MACKINTOSH IAN	932 LAVERTY MICHAEL	1017 MCMURRAY BEN
566 MCGILVRAY ANGUS	657 MURPHY TERRY	749 HARRIGAN LANCE	841 MAHON KEVIN	933 RYAN DAVID	1018 NOLAN KARRA-LEE
567 SAVAGE N	658 REEDY BERT	750 PRESLAND MERV	842 MCPHERSON COLIN	934 STONE JONATHAN	1019 STINDL TOM
568 COOK ERNEST	659 SAINSBURY LES	751 BATTIN PHIL	843 NEALE KEITH	935 FARLOW JAY	1020 SUTERS CHARLIE
569 TURNER LIN	660 SINCLAIR WARRICK	752 KELLY ANTHONY	844 LAWRENCE ROD	936 BEASHEL NICK	1021 TURNER CAMERON
570 CONNOR JOHN	661 BOLTON BARRY	753 SERCOMBE ALAN	845 WATKINS PETER	937 CHARMAN SHANE	1022 WELLS DILLAN
571 HENNESSY CLAUDE	662 COFFEY ROBERT	754 STUART PHIL	846 WOOL WAYNE	938 ELLISON STEVE	1023 SALDERN LUKE
572 DONOVAN K	663 DREWES JACK	755 WEEKS GEOFF	847 HEWITT PAUL	939 KLEIN ASHLEY	1024 BIRD JACK
573 FREEMAN RON	664 FREEMAN PAUL	756 ALMOND NEIL	848 ALCHIN DARREN	940 MOORE ROBERT	1025 MOREY ROBERT
574 HOLMAN KIETH MBE	665 GRIFFITH H	757 BONNIE BRIAN	849 CAFFERELLI MARIO	941 PERENARA HENRY	1026 FORD MICHEAL
575 KIRK WALLY	666 DUNN MAX	758 BUNNAGE MICHAEL	850 CRANSTON ROD	942 WOODS JOHN	1027 MANI BRENDANI
576 MCCAFFREY DENNY	667 GATELY BRIEN	759 BUTLER TONY	851 FALLAH ALAN	943 CASSIDY ADAM	1028 MURRAY ETHAN
577 SMITH RON	668 ATKINSON ROB	760 COX JIM	852 IRWIN ROBERT	944 NOYAN MATT	1029 ETHAN KLEIN
578 TURNER JACK	669 HAYNES CLIFF	761 EDNEY LEON	853 OBRIEN JASON	945 OLFORD DANIEL	1030 BEN SEPPALA
579 CROSS BARRY	670 MURPHY T	762 FLINT ROBERT	854 PENFOLD LUKE	946 SMITH SHANE	1031 ADAM SIRIANNI
580 ELLISS PHIL	671 ANNESLEY GRAHAM	763 GLYNN BILL	855 TODD SCOTT	947 MCDONNELL	1032 BLAKE WILLIAMS
581 GRIFFITHS JOE	672 NASH STEVE	764 GOENER DAVID	856 DORAHY PHIL	948 LAWRENCE	1033 JOEL PITSCHIEDER
582 PAGE KIETH	673 WARD CHRIS	765 HEWITT PETER	857 REYNOLDS PAT	949 SMITH NATHAN	1034 MITCH ROBINSON
583 PATTERSON REG	674 TULLOCH WILLIAM	766 LATHAM MICHAEL	858 RICHARDS STEVE	950 MELLOR PAUL	1035 TATE HOOBIN
584 TOMSETT MAX	675 ATKINS PETER	767 GRANT BRIAN	859 TURNER RUSSELL	951 PHILLIPS LUKE	1036 BRAYDEN HUNT
585 CLEMENT D JAMES	676 CONNOLLEY RAY	768 LEWIS RICK	860 WEINSTEIN JASON	952 MORRIS GAVIN	1037 LACHLAN GREENFIELD
586 CRAWFORD WILLIAM	677 HUNT BOB	769 MATTHEWS BRETT	861 HOLLAND PAUL	953 SHEPHERD SCOTT	
587 DARMODY ROBERT	678 MURRAY RON	770 MUIR IAN	862 JANKOWSKI GEORGE	954 BADGER KASEY	
588 KELLY JOHN	679 PEARCE RON	771 NEAL JIM	863 ROBINSON JASON	955 JACKSON RYAN	
589 LANGTON CARL	680 SHIPTON BRUCE	772 RUTTLE BARRY	864 BADGER GAVIN		
590 MENSER RAY	681 STONE MICHAEL	773 SMITH OWEN	865 DE LAS HERAS TONY		

OUR MEMBERS OUT & ABOUT



Life members Doug Keen and Sean Hampstead share a Perry Como moment.



A special moment on Saturday with Life Member Jason Walsh presenting his son Jake with his Grand Final jersey for the Harold Matthews Cup Grand Final.



NRL Squad Members share some time with Ukrainian Refugees in the lead up to ANZAC DAY.



Life Member Steve Brown dressed for 'hi rollers' at the Melbourne Cup this year.



Life Member George Jankowski still performing on the big stage.



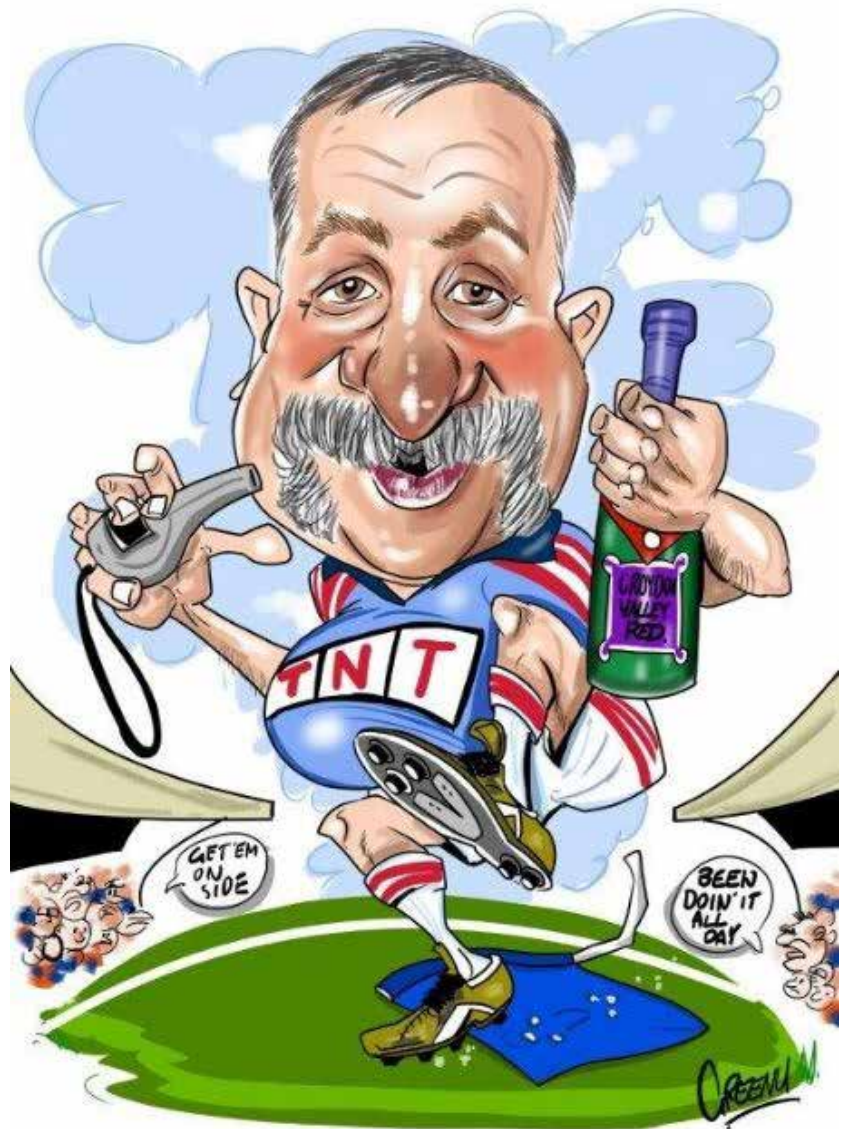
Travelling overseas to do matches can be a very taxing and sometimes in very warm climates.

THE SPAGS LEGENDS LUNCH

Just 12 months ago the NSWRLRA lost one of its greats. Life Member and former Chairman Dennis Spagarino.

In honour of Dennis' great friendship and passion for the NSWRLRA the yearly get together of his mates is now known as the SPAGS LEGENDS LUNCH.

A caricature was created in his honour.



CONFERENCE 2023

The NSWRLRA held the first ever combined Coaching and Development Conference in March at the NSW Centre of Excellence. Over 80 attendees over the days were brought up to date with the latest approaches and methods for coaching and development of referees Tony Archer and his referee education team. It was a great success.





LOOKING BACK

4 members tell their story

FRANK KITCHER OAM



I was born and raised in Walcha, Northern Tablelands of the New England Area.

I grew up playing football and cricket, it's what every boy from Walcha did in those days and later on tennis and hockey.

In 1961 I moved to Newcastle and played League with a club in Cessnock for one year.

My league refereeing career began when I was approached by a Newcastle Grade referee at Newcastle's number one sports ground... I mean across the road from Newcastle's number one sports ground known as The Exchange Hotel. Naturally I struck up a conversation about the game he'd just refereed. And we chatted over some beers for some time. He asked me if I had ever thought of refereeing myself, "sure let's give it a go" I said. That day marked the start of my rugby league refereeing career.

I'm sure you all have fond memories like me, of getting your ticket and that NSW blue metal badge. Then purchasing your white guernsey and shorts and to top it off the sky-blue socks with the dark rim.

Think about walking on to the field for your first game. Scary to compare the game then to today's. I refereed for 22 years as a member of the Newcastle Association. During this time, I was appointed as Touch judge for many divisional games, the international games played in Newcastle with teams from England, France and New Zealand, all of the mid-week Amco games, plus eight 1st grade grand finals. I also refereed four second division consecutive 1st Grade grand finals.

I suppose I can also crow about being selected to referee boys secondary school games which were played at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Now when I wasn't out on the field or running the lines I was behind the scenes. I served as treasurer for 6 years at the

Newcastle's association. One of the auditors ; Harold Gillard the then secretary/ treasurer of the country RLRA asked me if I would stand for the position of treasurer of the CRLRA in 1977. I was elected as treasurer and then moved to the executive committee of the CRLRA where I totalled 40 years, retiring in 2016.

Over the 40 years I spent as part of the executive committee I had the privilege of working alongside some great people such as Kevin Riolo and the late Nick Best. Between the 3 of us, we have served for over 100 years combined. Plus many other people, too many to name individually but they know who they are and how much I appreciate them.

What kept me coming back for 40 years was being a part of a team with a common goal: To better the art of rugby league refereeing.

Over the years I have seen many changes occur such as CRLRA going their own way with different badges and having their own development squads. I must mention here that we had great support from CRL and NSW Referee's Association who assisted us with advice and funding, so much so we were part of one big happy ordination with one objective: to produce the best of referees.

Thinking back, I remember the first balance sheets were about \$2000. Membership was \$2 for seniors and juniors was free. Later that \$2 became \$5 with a proviso and if required, a levy would be struck of \$1 per member.

I had the belief that our association should not accumulate funds and we should spend what we budgeted for with enough in reserve to start our new year. Thanks to the committee this was carried out.

Again my thoughts go back to many trips to NSW country associations camps meetings. Assisting to examine candidates for their referee tickets. Many AGMs with all the CRLRA association doing their bit.

A lot of fun times I had and making lifelong friends to this day.

I believe in strong financial positions to run associations with all funds spent on helping referees become an integral part of rugby league.

- Life member of CRLRA (Now NSW RLRA)
- Life member of NCRLRA
- Life member of Newcastle and district tennis association.
- Awarded Australian sports medal in 2000.
- Awarded CRL Pin in 2016 for service to CRLRA and CRL
- Received Order of Australia medal for my services to NSW sport (tennis and rugby league) - Queens Birthday Honour 2022.

FRANK LEONARD



Frank was born in Temora on the 4th December, 1942. His family consisting of mother, father and brother moved to Nowra from Temora in 1946. Between 1946 and 1951 his mother contracted Bowel Cancer and died in 1951 leaving Frank at 10 years of age and his brother Brian, 7. His father, Jim Leonard took up Rugby League refereeing in Group 7 and refereed seven First Grade Grand Finals and ran a Touch Line on a game involving a touring French team. Frank attended almost every game his father was appointed to.

When in 6th Class, Frank won a Scholarship to Holy Cross College, Ryde and remained there until 1957 when he returned to Nowra High School because of the very limited teaching skills of the Patrician Brothers. At Holy Cross College Frank played Rugby League as right wing for the school's 8 Stone 7 Pounds team and, during vacations, a Centre for the Nowra Warriors Under 18 team breaking a collar bone in a Trial while home on an Easter break. In 1959 he captained Nowra High School's Rugby League team playing full-back defeating the Royal Naval College at Jervis Bay in a game of Rugby Union, a game where Frank scored all 14 points to claim victory. He attended Wagga Teachers' College in 1958-59 and played Rugby Union in one of two Reserve Grade teams, the Greens, scoring 18 tries as a winger in his second and final year.

In January 1965 Frank took up an appointment as Special Education and Music teacher at Moss Vale High School. In the Winter months Sports afternoons, he would referee Rugby League using the laws and skills he had learned from watching his father. On one Friday afternoon he encountered a Group 6 teacher and referee, a Maths teacher from Bowral High School, Jim Carey, in the Bowral Hotel. After agreeing that they would both like to become Rugby League referees,

they enrolled in Cyril Wigzell's Monday evening class for two weeks and then sat the examination. Frank drew Col Pearce with Col Schomberg as the Marker. He failed at first attempt and was invited to spend two hours with Laurie Bruyeres the following week prior to taking the test. By this time Frank was living in Bowral having married a Bowral girl. This time he was successful in front of Col Pearce. Living in Bowral, he refereed in Group 6 for two years appointed to one First Grade game and several Reserve and Under 18 fixtures, one of which was a fiery game between two Campbelltown High Schools that saw three sendoffs and a couple transported to hospital. At that point Frank decided he would not continue as a referee but was persuaded by the late Les Ballard and good friend, John Joyce, to stick at it. The following season he had moved to Scone as Head Teacher of Social Sciences and from a Knockout competition to start the Season off he was selected to referee the Final. From that point on he remained in First Grade for five years and refereed four First Grade Grand Finals, four Country Divisional Games at Parkes, Bathurst, Lismore, Queanbeyan and Northern Division Trials on Scully Park, Tamworth. before moving south to Moruya from where he refereed in Country Group 7 which stretched from Bateman's Bay to Warilla. He refereed First Grade, and appointed to four first Grade Grand Finals, a Country v City Touch Line and a further Divisional Game between Monaro and Western Division.

In late November 1998 Frank received a phone call from Denis Braybrook who was the NSWRL Director of Referees asking him if he would be interested in trialling as a Touch Judge for the ARL competition. Frank was elated by the offer and trialled in a night game at Leichardt Oval with Kelvin Jeffes the referee and Les Matthews the other Touch Judge. Frank was Graded, Number 788 and was in First Grade in his third year and appointed as an In-Goal Touch Judge in the 1991 State of Origin in Brisbane refereed by Bill Harrigan with Steve Betts one of the Touch Judges and in the following year as a Touch Judge with Martin Weekes in the State of Origin in Melbourne where Eddie Ward was the Central Referee. Following a restructuring of The Board, Les Matthews served another six years as the Executive Officer until he took ill. Frank was elected to take over from Les at the 2008 A.G.M and he served in the position for nine years. During his tenure he and all Board members sought to bring the ARL referees under the banner of the NSWRLA but met with considerable opposition despite some of these elite referees continuing to support the Association. He was there when Michael Stone, then Director of Referees, asked all those at training to sit in the stand at Lidcombe Oval and he announced the formation of Super League. Michael asked those who wanted to go with Super League to join their directors immediately and the rest of us were obviously going to remain with the NSWRL. Change occurred rapidly eg First Grade Touch Judge Match Fees moved from \$100 per 1st Grade game to \$500 per game.

LOOKING BACK continued

Following an error in a First Grade game as a Touch Judge played between St. George and Canberra Raiders on Wollongong Showground, a night game with very limited lighting, Frank was dropped to Reserve Grade and other Grades for a period of ten weeks by Touch Judge Coach, the late Max Tomsett. Frank, though very disappointed, continued to accept the appointments made until he “retired” in 1997 and gave his time to coaching referees, young and old, in the Illawarra and serving as an Assessor of Referees appointed to games under the control of the NSWRL, a role he played until retiring at the end of 2022. In 1988, as the Deputy Principal of Wooloware High School. Frank coached the school’s Buckley Shield Under 14 team taking them to the Grand Final against Toormina High School and the Trophy in the Grand Final where Adam Dykes (later Cronulla and Parramatta) played a huge role as Captain and half-back.



Frank retired at the end of 1999 and continued his involvement with the Illawarra Association. At The AGM of the NSWRLA Referees Association in 2006, Frank was awarded Life Membership nominated by Michael Ryan (Deceased) and in 2009, Les Matthews and Dennis Spagarino for the position of Executive Officer and was successful in the Ballot and served in the position until 2017 despite living in Wollongong. During his time with the Association Frank received the George and Amy Hansen Award in 2008 and The Eric Cox Medal in 2014. In 2017 the Board created the Frank Leonard Trophy for the referee of the Tarsha Gale Grand Final.

Frank’s interest in our game continues with a Family Tipping Competition and attendance at Illawarra and NSWRLRA Meetings, regardless of how they are conducted, and the games on television. He is a Life Member of the NSWRLRA and The Illawarra RA.

RON PEARCE



It all started in 1946 the year my dad came home from the war. He was a Bluebag tragic and had missed their 1943 Grand Final win – he was elsewhere overseas dodging bullets!

On his return from service, he couldn’t wait to take me Henson Park (I was 6 years old) and I also became hooked on Rugby League and Newtown.

Fast forward to 1950. I left school to start an apprenticeship at the Daily Telegraph as a Graphic Printer and soon played my first season of Rugby League with Tempe Black and White Ionas in the Newtown Junior Rugby League. C Grade (Under 18’s) We won one game that season, but it didn’t matter as I was hooked to be playing the greatest game of all.

In 1953 playing in a Presidents Cup trial game, I badly ruptured my left cruciate ligament! My playing career on hold for some time.

1955 – National Service followed by volunteering in reserves for a 5-year commitment.

1956 – Met my wife to be (still no footy)

1958 – A married man! to my love Lynette

1960 – first child born – a son

1966 – Joined newly formed club – Brighton Seagulls where my son played his very first game (u10’s)

1967 – Coached the u10’s team – two of the players went on to play first grade – Jeff Hardy (Steelers) and Brad Mackay (Dragons) At the end of the season a player’s dad was in my year to get my referees ticket and become a referee.

I resisted for some time, but he was very persuasive and somehow convinced me that this was the way to go. I sat for my referees’ ticket and received it and began refereeing in the St George Junior Rugby League in 1970.

I really started to enjoy this new venture into another part of

this great game. To my great pride I was selected to officiate in the Junior Rep trials. I must have impressed someone from RL Headquarters as in 1978 to my great joy and pride I was Graded with the NSWRL as it was known in those days. As the statisticians have noted I was the oldest person graded at 43 years of age.

I was over the moon. I had several games in the centre in 3rd Grade and a couple in Reggie's (Reserve Grade).

In 1980 I was in 1st Grade on the line as a touchie.

My career as a Touch Judge - with my most memorable achievement being a Touch Judge in City v Country in 1981. I Was also appointed to a number of reggies finals.

My on-field career lasted 11 seasons and I followed with another 11 seasons in roles off the field. These included Advisory Board Member and Video Manager. The position of Video Manager was created by Mick Stone the NSWRL Referees Coach. The role earned me the name of Cecil B De Pearce by the late great Michael Ryan God Bless him. Several of the old crew still address me as Cecil

That brings me to 2000 when I fully retire from Grade activities.

I found myself at Cronulla Referees Association as an Advisor and Mentor to junior referees.

In 2001 I was honoured by receiving the Australian Sports Medal for services to Rugby League with a certificate signed by HM Queen Elizabeth II AND THE Prime Minister John Howard. I am still humbled by this honour.

Another major honour came my way in 2001 with the awarding of Life Membership of the NSWRLRA. My cup runneth over.



2002 saw the inauguration of the wonderful Men of League Foundation, I along with Kevin Roberts, Greg McCallum and a couple of others attended the first meeting at the old NSW Leagues Club. After a few months Kevin Roberts and I were

elected to the first committee and after a short period of time was asked by Ron Coote and Jim Hall to become the Men of League's first Welfare Officer, I gladly accepted the position - in this role I became John Peard's career.

I continued this role until 2015 when family concerns prohibited my full attention to this wonderful cause. I still follow closely its great contribution and purpose in providing support to those in the Rugby League family that need it.

Still a Rugby League tragic... now a Sharkies tragic!

Life Memberships:

Brighton Seagulls JRLFC

NSWRLRA

Cronulla Sutherland District JRL

Cronulla Sutherland Referees Association

GRAEME WEST



I was in high school when I obtained my Schoolboys Referees Ticket.

I had attended classes held by the NSWRLRA at the NSWRL Club in Phillip Street during school holidays.

In 1979, I joined the Balmain Referees Association and enjoyed many afternoons, rain, hail or shine at Birchgrove, Blackmore, Frank Street, Kent Road & Ryde Ovals learning the trade.

I was in the right place/right time scenario, when in the early part of the TNT sponsorship, the NSWRLRA would video games for coaching purposes. They came to Leichhardt Oval for the Balmain Junior League Grand Final Day in 1981.

They came to watch and video Balmain's top 3 referees. My grand final was number four on that day, to my surprise they videoed my game as well. Eric Cox (OAM) announced after the games, that my name was among those to be included in Grade trials the following year.

LOOKING BACK continued

From those trials in 1982 I was graded #724

After running third grade lines and refereeing in the Business Houses competition I was promoted to a 3rd grade centre.

From this I was appointed to ten third grade games and eleven reserve grade games before my debut in First Grade on the 17th of April 1983. The game was between Western Suburbs and South Sydney at Lidcombe Oval. Result was a 6-6 draw before a crowd of 2,041 fans.

Throughout the next 14 seasons I was accredited to refereeing 181 first grade competition games plus mid-week Cup games, semi-final series games, Australian Schoolboys v Great Britain and two Commonwealth Cup Grand Finals 1990 & 1994.

I was also involved with NSW Police Rugby League, doing mid-week games and had the opportunity to do several Grand Finals.

During this time, I was still active in Balmain and organising Coaching classes. In 1991, I became the Associations President, a position I held for eleven consecutive years before stepping aside.

I was awarded Life Membership of Balmain Referees Association in 1990 and during Balmain's Centenary celebrations in 2015 I also become a "Hall of Fame" Member.

During my career, I was approached to hold a position on the NSWRL Referees Examination Board, which I was proud to accept.

The Chairman then was the widely known and respected Col Pearce.

The Board at the time had many accomplished members including Reg Dick, Jack Harris, Don MacDonald and John Farrelly.

This for me was a very memorable and enlightening experience for years. Not only examining candidates and discussing the current games with the other members but also listening to stories and events during their own careers.

As a member of the NSWRL Coaching Panel and Examination Board I was able to referee, coach and examine in places like Tonga, Western Samoa, Fiji, Norfolk Island, Alice Springs and Darwin as well as the NSW Country Group areas.

A chronic knee injury forced my premature retirement in 1997.

I was awarded Life Membership (No. 137) to the NSWRL Referees Association in 1999.

With the inception of the NRL, I applied for and was accepted as a Video Referee.

Throughout this period of my career, I participated in 302 NRL games, Semi Final Series and two Grand Finals in 2004 & 2005.

As a Video Referee, I was also involved with the State of Origin Series with 11 games between 1998-2006, City v Country games and Test matches.

In 2005, I received the NRL Referee Achievement Award and after 2008 was inducted into NSWRLRA 300 Club for Video Referee appearances.

I finished my refereeing career at the end of the 2008 season which to me was perfect time to do so as it was ten consecutive seasons as video ref and of course the Centenary Year for our game.

During my career in First Grade, I was fortunate enough to referee the best players in Rugby League at the time. Then as a Video Referee I got to team up, mentor and work with the best Referees available. This was also an enjoyable and fantastic experience.

There are so many people to thank for this incredible time in Refereeing, but to mention only some would be an injustice to those left out.

To all those refereeing mentors during this time, both on and off the field, your advice and guidance was greatly appreciated.



NEWS IN BRIEF

JOHN GOCHER CELEBRATES HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

Life Member John Gocher #617 celebrated his 80th Birthday surrounded by his family and many of his NSWRLRA colleagues.

John isn't in the best of health but enjoyed the many speeches and connections with refereeing mates from the 80's era when John refereed the 1982 Grand Final and interstate and international matches in England and France.

His Children NSWRLRA member Darren #823, Craig and Mark appreciated the support the NSWRLRA members showed by sharing this very special event.



MITCHELL STONE JOINS THE 400 CLUB

The NSWRL Referees Association congratulates Mitchell Stone # 960 in officiating in his 400th game as a Touch Judge during 2023.

Mitchell Stone was graded to the NSWRL high performance squad in 2011 from the Parramatta district and follows Penrith district referee John Woods, who reached the 400 -game mark in April 2022.

Mitchell has been an ever-present member of the Grade Squad and reaching and now exceeding 400 games takes great commitment and enthusiasm as well as each doing his job and being part of the referee's team.



Reminiscing...





Reminiscing...

PACIFIC NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

Adam Gee
David Munro
Chris Sutton
Ashley Klein
Grant Atkins
Todd Smith
Ziggy Przeklasa-Admanski
Gerard Sutton
Drew Oultram
Phil Hensonson
Darian Furner

Participants - Men

Australia
New Zealand
Samoa
Fiji
Papua New Guinea
Cook Islands

Participants - Women

Australia
New Zealand
Samoa
Fiji
Papua New Guinea
Cook Islands







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