

Chairpersons Report



Dear Colleagues

Another season is drawing to a close, a season which brought a semblance of normality but one which also gave us reminders that Covid hadn't gone away, which resulted in postponed games, referees being drafted in a short notice due to colleagues testing positive & at times not knowing what was going to happen next. In the main, however, the majority have managed to get back to the game we love.

Another positive was the return of our monthly meetings after a long absence – a return to meeting up, receiving education & sharing stories about all that was going on in refereeing. It was therefore disappointing to note the lack of attendance when we did manage to get our meetings running again. I would ask the question, what stops you attending? What would encourage you to attend?

I've been fortunate enough to be the figurehead for NEURA for the past number of seasons but I want to pay tribute to those who do the real work behind the scenes on behalf of the members, the committee and more especially the vice chair, the secretary and the treasurer – without them the association would cease to function

I want to congratulate all those who have been involved in finals this season, whether that be in the Down Area League, Amateur League, Belfast & District or one of the many other leagues that our referees cover – Not everyone gets that experience and its one that can never be taken from you once you've had it

Nothing in this world is perfect and that is the same in refereeing, however you are never alone. The NEURA committee will always do their best to assist with whatever issues you have – it can be something as simple as cold showers at Mallusk, a lack of fixtures, problems with COMET or the bigger issues around promotion, pathways to progress or attending disciplinary hearings. Bring your problems to us and we will do what we can to help – that's why you put us in office, to fight your corner – but to do so we have to be aware of the issues & be able to ask the questions.

Finally, I wish you all a restful summer (once the fitness tests are done) and hope to see you all back ready for season 2022-23

Evan Boyce

Chairperson