

Secretary's Report – 2018/19

As another season closes, I reflect on the association's achievements.

One of the core objectives of the association is to improve the standard of refereeing in our association. There are a core number of members who engage month on month with the association and it is that core who see the benefit of what we provide. If you are not one of these core people I then ask you to reflect making no apology for repeating a year on year message. Refereeing continues to change. Are you moving at the same pace as this change or are you stagnating? How do you physically and tactically prepare for you game each week? How do you maintain and improve your knowledge of the laws of the game and your fitness? Do you understand how a game should be managed? Do you portray yourself as a proficient and professional match official? Are you giving anything back or is your experience going to be lost to those who need it? If you do not attend our meetings how are you developing? From where and whom are you taking your advice?

NEURA is Fifty

The North East Ulster Referees Association was founded on 22 August 1969 with the amalgamation of the Ulster Referees Association and the North East Referees Association. Whilst the latter organisations have a far longer history this is a notable milestone. Preparations are well underway to celebrate the associations golden anniversary. More details will be released as they become firm.

Development Group

NEURA launched its development group early in the season. I thank Andrew Neeson for his time and effort in leading the group. I also thank the Talents and Mentors who took part in the group. Colleagues from Premier league to Junior have engaged to see successful graduation of many Talents and Mentors to the National Development group. Congratulations to all who made it through to the National Group and thanks again to all the volunteer Mentors. Most of the national and county finals reflect panels with strong engagements on both groups which is no coincidence.

Training

I remind all officials that we are here to provide for you all. We continue to provide training each Wednesday on the track at Ballysillian. The camaraderie is fantastic, and I thank Michael McLaughlin for his time in taking the sessions. I genuinely wish that all officials in the association could attend and experience the benefit of this. Numbers at training at our meetings have increased this season. Two sessions a month now take place. I thank Trevor Moutry at the Irish Football Association providing a dedicated fitness coach to take these sessions and encourage all to attend.

Registrations

We have improved the digital payment method for your registration fees this season details will be in the North East Review. This is now the only way you can register and pay your fees. I remind you that your fees will rise in line with your grade this season as decided at last year's AGM. Please register by the 31st May to avoid the £10 late payment fee.

Thankyou

In closing I thank all the people who have given up their time to help in all the activities mentioned above over this season. All the people who volunteer their time. Thanks to the NEURA committee. It is no secret that our Chair Keith Kennedy is stepping down this season. I want to thank Keith for his help over the last two seasons and for volunteering his time to the association. Keith has been instrumental in attracting the high-profile guests to our meetings. That means we will have a new chair for the incoming season.

Use your vote carefully at the AGM have a great break and return refreshed for a new season!

Yours in sport

Neill Gillespie

Chairman: Mr Keith Kennedy

Vice Chairman: John McKnight

Treasurer: Lawrence Black

Secretary: Neill Gillespie

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