**Sheffield RA General Meeting 21st February**

**Apologies**

Steve Clayton

Stacey Hall

Simon Hall

Paul Holmes

Jacob Guest

The chairman opened the meeting at 19.30. The minutes from January’s meeting have been proposed by RH and seconded by PR.

RL discussed the recent incident of a local referee wearing a body cam, this is against the laws of the game and anybody wearing such equipment may be charged and suspended.

RL handed the meeting over to our guest speaker Paul Fields who is the chairman of the National Referees Association.

Paul has been a referee for 25 years, his course was completed with the Referees Association. Paul talked through the history of the RA, this was set up 5th March 1908.

A presentation of how the RA can support members that need financial help and that not enough referees ask for help when needed.

The next presentation was to inspire and develop career’s, all premier league referees track their career back to the RA. The RA look after their family of referees and have represented over 150 referees in the last 9 months, always ask for a personal hearing and you will have a chance.

A video clip was shown of Henry, a referee that was assaulted and ended up hospitalised, Henry had been referring for 24 years, but decided not to continue after the assault.

Welfare and representation was discussed and how we should take care of the young people and be responsible to take care of them. The RA has qualified police officers to help with officials that have been assaulted.

PF asked 3 of our young officials what they would do with angry managers, a discussion followed their answers.

PF asked RL if our Country FA were sharing the newly qualified referees with ourselves - currently this information is not shared.

PF discussed hawk eye and encouraged anyone that had the chance to go and experience the day out.

PF asked that we ensure all our data is up to date to ensure we are receiving newsletters and emails etc.

A presentation of the eve of the final rally was shown featuring premier league referees and Paul went onto discuss the RA development weekend.

PF went onto inform the room about the discounts RA members can receive e.g Pure Gym and driving lessons.

PF closed the evening by informing the room that Futsal has now been introduced to the RA and also giving job references to our referees.

RL presented PF with a token gift as a thank you for his time for coming to talk to us.

Meeting closed at 21:20