**Sheffield RA General Meeting 18th October 2018**

**Apologies**

Paul Cooper

Sam Clayton

Aaron Hallam

Roger Hibberd

Paul Whiteley

The meeting was opened by the chairman at 19:38. The minutes from the previous general meeting were displayed on the projector for our member. PR proposed these were a true meaning, PH seconded.

RL informed the member’s referee fees are going to be increased next season.

**Guest Speaker - Darren England**

RL handed the evening over to our guest speaker for the evening Darren England. Darren thanked everyone for inviting him to our meeting. Darren began the evening by giving the room a brief insight to his career.

Up to 2012/2013 was an assistant Premier League referee, then moved onto be a panel 2a referee in 2013/2014 and is currently a select group 2 referee in the EFL and also on the UEFA core programme.

Darren discussed sacrifice required to reach the top, the training needed and support.

A picture of a snowball that resulted in an avalanche was displayed on the projector, Darren discussed with the room how sometimes referees can cause our own problems by not dealing with incidents in a timely manner, resulting in small problems turning into bigger problems later in the game.

Darren moved onto show a clip ‘keeping a lid on things’ - the room was split into groups to discuss what they thought the referee did well and what they thought he could do better. Darren talked about not turning your back on offending players and talk to players about how much their team needs them, work with the captain - try to calm things down.

**Discussion Clips**

A Chesterfield V Preston was shown, darren asked the room to discuss in their groups what the referee could have done better? One group stated the yellow card taken so long to be issued, it could have resulted in mass confrontation. One group thought the injured player should have been treated earlier and viewing angles from the referee were not credible.

The next clip shown was Swinton V Sheffield United, one group commented on the body language of the referee - head down in his book and the assistant maybe should have flagged for a foul at the corner flag to avoid the foul that followed. Darren talked about temperature of the game and to ‘kill it’ especially with this being in the last minute.

The evening came to a close with thanks to Darren and a bottle of wine presented by Andy Hogg.

**November Meeting**

The meeting in November is titled the old and the new.

Meeting closed at 21.30