***CALEDONIA RUGBY***

***Aberdeen & District Rugby Referees Society (ADRRS)***

**OPEN LETTER TO NORTH EAST CLUBS, CALEDONIA REGION**

**I would be grateful to recipients of this open letter to ensure it is given widespread circulation throughout your respective clubs.**

**There have been several instances in recent weeks regarding unacceptable and abusive behaviour directed toward referees. It is disappointing to report that those responsible comprise a wide cross section including players, coaches, club officials and supporters. In those cases where individuals have been identified the matter has been referred to the appropriate Discipline authority.**

**I appreciate that it is invariably a minority who bring the good name of our sport into disrepute but that doesn't mean it should go unchallenged. I would remind all clubs and members, playing or otherwise, of their responsibilities with regard to the 'Code of Conduct'. May I also remind you that referees are volunteers who are integral to the game and give of their time freely. Referees however are not compelled to accept appointments and I have been informed by some that there are certain clubs they do not wish to be appointed to in the future. It would be unfortunate if this were to escalate with the inevitable impact it would have for the game of rugby and I therefore seek your support in facing the issues now and working to eradicate unacceptable and abusive behaviour no matter to whom it is directed.**

**Yours in rugby**

***Ray Mellis***

**President, ADRRS**