

LSRUR newsletter

February 2010



Petz Corner

The Bloke on the Side

Who is the bloke on the side ? What is the bloke on the side meant to be doing ? Who's side is he on anyway ?

The answers to these questions gently change as a referee moves on from his or her first match all the way through to challenging for a place on Federation, Group and National Panel.

When a referee first starts, the bloke on the side is a friend and minder, there to make sure that you survive your first few matches, introduce you to the basics, make sure your scrum engagement is correct. Once you have completed your first ten games and have been awarded some free kit then it is plain sailing.

Not really, because the bloke on the side changes and takes on some new roles. He may be an Assessor (or Advisor depending on how the RFU wants it described) who has been sent along for your yearly MOT, or has been sent along to assess potential for further advancement. Now it is much more about a critical review of various elements of the game; Law, Management, Communication, Deportment, all detailed in a verbal and written report. And a clipboard present for 80 minutes.

However, he should be impartial and neutral. Teams may at times be unhappy with a referee performance because they have lost or been penalised, yet the Assessor has quite rightly identified that the referee managed the game well and produced a good performance. There again the Assessor may have to agree with the teams. And yes, the teams will spot him very quickly.

If you are lucky, the bloke on the side may be your Coach. If you are progressing through the ranks then you may be allocated a Coach who will watch you on a regular basis, providing insight and advice to improve your game. He will invariably be your friend, but will happily get upset with you if you ignore his advice. The Coach usually has a little notebook and is not quite so obvious, unless he is chatting up the wives and girlfriends who are watching the match.

And then it gets complicated. For those who reach L6 and are being looked at for advancement to Midland Group (L5), then there can be quite a few blokes on the side. The RFU Regional Development Officer, a Group Assessor, and a Coach all at the same match. If you have TJs on the side there may even be a TJ Assessor. So the changing room can get really full until you kick them all out. Most of these will simply have the job of saying yes or no. Has the referee got the right attributes to go further – Law, Management, Communication, Fitness, Age, Temperament, Presence, Deportment – all of these boxes need ticking. But hopefully the Coach is still your friend at this point.

So look after the bloke on the side – no matter who he is. Up to L6/L5 he is a volunteer just like you, doing his part for rugby,

MEMBERS MEETING - MONDAY February 22nd

Belgrave Clubhouse

7:30

The second part of the members meeting will be taken by Mike Mortimer and, again, the topic is the scrum. Mike will show clips of good and bad scrummages, how to spot good and bad practice and how to reward or penalise accordingly

Shortage of Society Assessors

We currently have a shortage of Assessors to watch Society Referees. This means that less reports will be available to consider the regrading of Referees at the end of the season.

If you are injured and bored, why not consider helping your Society and fellow Referees by temporarily turning your hand to assessing.

If interested, please contact Geoff Blackburn (SADO)

LSRUR Election of Officers and Committee Members

There are various posts available for the 2010/2011 Season to be elected in our AGM:

President

Chairman

Hon Appointment Secretary

Hon Re-appointment Secretary

Hon Mid-week Appointment Secretary

Hon Sunday Appointment Secretary

Hon Exchange Secretary

Hon Training Officer

If you are interested then please let us know!

Now & Then

Pictures courtesy of Jeff Knight & Ted Sewell's Scrapbook

