

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

April 2017

Next members' meeting will be MONDAY 24 April 2017 at Belgrave RFC, 7pm for 7.30pm. 30mins on 'Safeguarding' and then the famous end of season quiz!

Dates for your diary:

Monday 8 May 2017- Grading meeting, invites have been sent out to coaches and mentors, referees it is your responsibility to make sure your reports are submitted!

Tuesday 9 May 2017- County Cup Colts and Senior final at Welford Road. Elliott Coombes and George Richardson to referee the matches.

Monday 15 May 2017- AGM at Vipers RFC, 7pm for 7.30pm

Saturday 5 August 2017- Family Fun Day, there will be a twist this year... more details to be announced.

Monday 21 August 2017- First members' meeting of the 2017-2018 season at Vipers RFC.

Sunday 5 November 2017- President's lunch at Longcliffe Golf Club

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The Society's annual dinner was held at the Tigers on Friday 21st April and was attended by 240 members and guests.

Melton Mowbray were winners of the Whistlers Trophy

Andrew Forsythe receiving the Referee of the Year trophy from Andy Goode

Congratulations to both! Photos from the event can be found here:

<http://www.lsrur.co.uk/newsletters-society-events/picture-gallery/event/AnnualDinner2017>

A big thank you to Andy Forsythe for organising the society curry on the 8 April 2017, it was an entertaining evening and a resounding success, we look forward to the next one!



LEICESTERSHIRE SOCIETY OF RUGBY UNION REFEREES

07/04/2017

Dear Member

I would like to inform you that the Annual General Meeting of Leicestershire Society of Rugby Referees will now take place on 15th May 2017.

The meeting will be held at Leicester Vipers RFC at 19.30 all members are encouraged to attend.

Several committee positions are up for election, any further nominations should be sent to me by 1st May with the agreement of the proposed person along with a proposer and a seconder. Please send to john@hillscoachsales.com

The posts for election and nominations already received are as follows

Post	Proposed	Proposer	Seconder
President	K. Wills	M. Elliott	J. Hill
Secretary	J. Hill	M. Elliott	T. Brucciani
Grading	P. Bower	K. Wills	N Lacey
Promotions	J. Burgess	M. Elliott	K. Wills
Training	T. Brucciani	P. Macmillan	N. Manchester
SADO	G. Blackburn	J Hill	N Lacey
R and R	N. Manchester	P. Bower	G. Blackburn.

Owing to the Hon Midweek Secretaries resignation and standing for training Officer the following nomination has been received for the role of Midweek appointments secretary.

Louis Massarella, proposed by Mark Elliott and seconded by John Hill

All annual reports and minutes will be sent to you via email in time for the meeting

I look forward to seeing all you at the AGM

John Hill

John Hill
Hon. Secretary
LSRUR

Training Report April 2017

First of all a big thank you to everyone who has experienced any of my training sessions over the past three years. I've really enjoyed myself, learnt loads and met lots of interesting people. And hopefully along the way a few people have learnt the skills needed to development themselves too.

I'll be passing the baton on to someone else but I'm sure I'll still be popping up now and again as regards to training.

I thought I'd leave with a few of my thoughts on how I see the community game developing:

In my opinion I think community rugby is undergoing massive change as society changes and the way people see sport and their leisure time alters. The days of men blanking out every Saturday from September to April have gone. The days of schools playing only football, rugby and cricket have gone. The days of five men's teams on a Saturday have gone. Male players these days will even get married during the rugby season and some have been known to take weeks off playing in order to be at their child's birth! I know, it's hard to believe.

Junior and mini rugby is booming and women's and girls' rugby is steadily increasing. Rugby clubs need to adapt but so do referee societies. Referees are going to get younger and we're going to see a greater proportion of junior and girls'/women's games.

From a referee development point of view, we are faced with new challenges. Due to many clubs only putting one home team out on a Saturday that informal 'mentoring' has gone. In the past you would get changed with three or four other refs and then have a good chat afterwards. You could ask questions but they could also reassure you that you were right and the coach/player/spectator was wrong. That's largely disappeared now. This is one reason I think the LSRUR Facebook page is important for people to ask for help and advice. But we also need to help our new members and go out of our way to contact them and offer them any help we can.

Another effect of there being less games on a Saturday is that those regular Vets and third/fourth team games are disappearing. That gentle introduction to rugby refereeing has gone. That means new refs are refereeing second team games that are usually a mix of keen prospective first team players, social players and the inept. And there's often a coach with the team too. I've watched a few of these games this season and they're not easy games to ref due to the varied expectations and behaviours of the players.

The game itself is becoming more attractive to watch as it gets quicker and 'cleaner' to suit the tv audiences. The problem is though, as it does this it gets less attractive for social players and older players. Your social player wants six resets at the scrum, nothing taken quickly and slow rucks.

I'm sure the Society will adapt as community rugby changes. But it's up to all of us to help new referees and offer them lots of support as they undergo their refereeing journey.

Paul

SUNDAY

Due to the excellent groundwork over the previous 3 years by my predecessor, Rob Knapp, Sunday appointments have increased significantly this season with close to 350 games being covered. On most Sundays in the mid-teens with 3 occasions over 20 referees being appointed and the high point being Sunday 26th February 2017 with 26 appointments.

There are too many members to thank individually for their support every over the season but a big thank-you to everyone who gave up their Sunday mornings/afternoons and in some instances, refereed 2 games on the same day to provide complete coverage.

Special mention should be made of the 4 Junior referees who have really progressed having covered close to 20 games each, including AR duties for the Junior Cup/Plate finals and National Cup games. It should not be overlooked, the efforts of various members who have 'watched' them to provide feedback to aid their development.

The feedback from clubs, coaches and parents has been generally positive and supportive of referees giving up their time on a Sunday to help progress Junior rugby in Leicestershire.

As we come to the end of the season and the start of the new season is only a few months away, I look forward to your continued support as I really do encourage anyone who did not referee on a Sunday this season, to give it a try as there are some very competitive games available.

The structure for Cup games next season has already been decided and in the early stages, there are again a large number of fixtures on the same day which will test our resources but as we proved this season, it can be achieved.

Once again, many thanks to everyone who contributed, in many different ways, to a very successful and enjoyable season.

Duncan Chandler

Hon. Sunday Appointment Secretary

Grading Committee – Process Summary

General

The Full Grading Sub Committee meet twice yearly to review all active referees.

The meetings are December and May, to give mid season and end of season reviews.

At the last meeting in December 2016, all 81 referees were reviewed with only seven being re-graded.

From these statistics alone, it should be noted that every ref is considered but few are re-graded.

Points considered

Primary measures are assessment reports and coach and mentor feedback.

We seek to assess each referee at least once per season to ensure capability, and if the referee wishes to be considered for re-grading, they can request additional assessment. This is subject to the availability of our limited number of assessors and is not the sole indicator for re-grading.

It should also be noted that re-grading can mean going to a lower level as well as being moved up. This can be at the referees request, or performance/ fitness, or player safety.

In conjunction with these, there are many other measures considered including:-

The amount of appointed games refereed recorded by the society.

Referee fitness.

Club, player and peer feedback.

Training session and members meetings attendance.

This feedback can relate to management, communication skills and application of laws, and also side issues such as dress standards, punctuality, along with feedback to players & coaches post match.

Also considered are the refs own wishes indicated, for example, happy as I am, want to move up, or indeed, want less demanding games.

Summary

Re-grading is not a 'by right' affair and is seen by the Committee as a major reward for consistent outstanding performance. Being good in our competitive Society is not enough, one must be at least 'very good' at their level for consideration.

The majority of fixtures within Leicestershire are at levels 9 and 10, and the majority of our referees are at this level too.

The Committee consider every referee at every re-grading meeting and a lot of time is given to this task to ensure a fair review for all.

To be successfully re-graded will be the result of hard work, attention to detail, personal review and self management, along with the necessary abilities to perform at the next level.

Peter Bower – Hon Grading Sec January 2017