

# Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

August 2017

Next members' meeting will be MONDAY 21 August 2017 at Vipers RFC, 7pm for 7.30pm. Subscriptions to be paid a brand-new waterproof jacket to be distributed to all members that refereed, coached or assessed a minimum of 10 matches in the 2016-2017 season. Tom Brucciani will then make a presentation on the new Global Law Trials that came into effect on 1 August 2017. The changes are set out later in this newsletter.

Dates for your diary:

**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 (more details featured later in this newsletter)

**Friday 20 April 2017-** Annual Dinner at Welford Road.

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Leicester Tigers have offered us a group discount on tickets for their first game of the premiership vs Bath on Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup>. It should be a cracker with George Ford against Freddie Burns.

Provided we have a minimum of 20, the tickets would be at the below price.

Adult Seated £20

Junior U18 Seated £5

Adult Standing £10

Junior U18 Standing £5

If you are interested please email Josh Burgess at [josh-burgess@live.com](mailto:josh-burgess@live.com) as soon as possible

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We have tickets available for purchase for two of the autumn international matches: v Argentina on Saturday 11 November; and v Australia on Saturday 18 November. If you are interested in the tickets please contact John Hill.

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## Note from the Chairman

The summer seems to be drawing to a close before its really got going and we find ourselves at the beginning of the new Season already !

Pre-season warm up games are coming in thick and fast and our hard working appointments secretaries are already busy allocating referees to games.

We have had a net gain of one Level 6 Team in Leicestershire, compared to last season, giving us 3 teams at that level. This will help those referees looking to push on to Midlands Group and beyond.

Below this level, we have an excellent spread of teams at all levels, providing good quality games for referees at all levels of the game.

As we saw last season, there will be an increase in Sunday and midweek games once again this season; please consider these days as options for refereeing and give the appropriate appointment secretary a call. There is some great rugby being played mid-week and on Sundays.

The new season sees the introduction of a raft of experimental law variations. Your new Training Officer, Tom Brucciani, will be taking you through these at the meeting on Monday; please make every effort to attend and get up to speed with the trial law variations.

Tom has transferred sideways from Mid-week appointment secretary to Training Officer. Thank you to Paul Macmillan for his input on training over the last 3 years and welcome on to the committee, Louis Massarella, who has taken over as mid-week appointment secretary.

Those members who completed at least 10 games last season, will be issued with a brand new training/warm up waterproof top, at the meeting on Monday. They are quality bits of kit (see the last page of this newsletter for a picture) and Kerrel Wills has done a sterling job in ordering them for us.

Your Treasurer, Nick Lacey, will be at the meeting on Monday, from 7:00pm, to accept your membership payment; held at £12 once again for this season.

On a really positive note, Noel Manchester (our recruitment and retention Officer) has at least 7 applications from new members, wishing to join the Society. This is fantastic news and crucial for rugby in Leicestershire if we are to continue to provide quality officials for all the games notified to us.

Remember that your committee are there for you; please contact us should you have any queries or concerns about anything at all.

I wish you all the best for the coming season and hope you all continue to enjoy being a part of this wonderful game; without your contribution, the game of rugby union would not be what it is in Leicestershire.

Mark Elliott

Chairman

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

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Hi all and welcome to another season.

I and my team of merry helpers, Pete and Tom, will be at the member's meeting to collect your subscriptions for this season. No changes to the fees, Full Members £12, Other Members £9 and those in full time education £5.

You will receive a handbook which will be shown to Roger Woolley to collect the new tops.

Make cheques out to LSRUR or if wanting to pay direct it is

LSRUR,

Bank of Scotland

SORT CODE 12-20-26

ACCOUNT 01875248

As a reminder internal expenses you can send to me monthly or twice a year whichever you prefer and they are paid in December and May. Anyone on exchange must send it as soon as possible after the trip and it will be paid immediately. Please do not put exchanges and internal games on the same form. Remember only one vehicle will be paid per exchange unless agreed with the Exchange Secretary beforehand.

All expenses are paid by bank transfer so please make sure I have your bank account details.

Regards

Nick Lacey

## **2017-18 GLOBAL LAW TRIALS.**

As I am sure you are all aware, this season sees a number of significant and material changes to the laws which you as a referee will need to be fully conversant with before your first match. A summary of these changes is listed below, and I strongly urge you to attend the first members meeting of the season where I will be presenting an in-depth look at the new law trials and how it may affect your game management.

I would also recommend you read the RFU memo (<http://www.lsrur.co.uk/images/GLTs-2017.pdf>) which gives additional guidance on how to apply some of these new laws.

### **Law 3 Number of Players – The Team**

#### **3.6 (Uncontested Scrums)**

Add (h) Uncontested scrums as a result of a sending off, temporary suspension or injury must be played with eight players per side.

Reasoning: To discourage teams from going to uncontested scrums.

### **Law 5 Time**

Add to 5.7(e) If a penalty is kicked into touch after time has elapsed without touching another player, the referee allows the throw-in to be taken and play continues until the next time the ball becomes dead.

Reasoning: To discourage teams from infringing in the dying moments of the game.

### **Law 8 Advantage**

Add to 8.1(a) When there are multiple penalty infringements by the same team, the referee may allow the captain of the non-offending team to choose the most advantageous of the penalty marks.

Reasoning: To discourage repeat offending when advantage is already being played and to reward teams against whom repeat offending has taken place.

### **Law 9 Method of Scoring**

#### **9.A.1 (points values)**

Penalty Try. If a player would probably have scored a try but for foul play by an opponent, a penalty try is awarded. No conversion is attempted.

Value: 7 points

Reasoning: To discourage teams from illegally preventing a probable try from being scored while also saving time on the clock by negating the need for a conversion.

### **Law 19 Touch and Lineout**

Add to definitions on page 117:

- A player who is attempting to bring the ball under control is deemed to be in possession of the ball.

Reasoning: This brings into law something that is already applied in practice. It means that a player “juggling” the ball does not have to be in contact with it at the exact moment of touching the touchline or the ground beyond it for the ball to be deemed to be in touch. This makes it easier for the match officials to adjudicate.

Amend eighth definition on page 117:

- If a player jumps and knocks the ball back into the playing area (or if that player catches the ball and throws it back into the playing area) before landing in touch or touch-in-goal, play continues regardless of whether the ball reaches the plane of touch.

Reasoning: To simplify law and to increase ball-in-play time.

Add to definitions on page 117:

- If the ball-carrier reaches the plane of touch but returns the ball to the playing area without first landing in touch, play continues.

Reasoning: To simplify law and to increase ball-in-play time.

Add to sixth definition on page 117:

- In this case, if the ball has passed the plane of touch when it is caught, then the catcher is not deemed to have taken the ball into touch. If the ball has not passed the plane of touch when it is caught or picked up, then the catcher is deemed to have taken the ball into touch, regardless of whether the ball was in motion or stationary.

Reasoning: To simplify law and to increase ball-in-play time.

With the exception of the change to Law 3, which is only for 15s, all these trials apply equally to 15s and rugby sevens.

## **SEVENS SPECIFIC**

In addition, the following trials were approved for law changes in sevens only:

- Finals should last no longer than seven minutes each half (rationale is player welfare – the evidence shows that a disproportionate number of injuries take place in the second half of finals. Injuries per minute are higher in the second half of finals as opposed to the first half and throughout normal matches of seven minutes each way.)
- Referee Video Referral (RVR) to be taken out of on-field referees' hands with the ultimate decision being taken by the TMO – often difficult to see the screen and make a call. The RVR protocol remains unchanged. The TMO will be one of the pool of tournament referees
- The restart kick must be taken within 30 seconds of a penalty kick or dropped goal being attempted where the kick is successful or goes dead.
- Teams must form a lineout within 15 seconds from the time the referee indicates the place where the throw-in will take place.
- Teams must be ready to form a scrum within 15 seconds from the time the referee indicates the mark of the scrum.
- A penalty or free-kick must be taken within 30 seconds of being awarded.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me [tom@brucciani.co.uk](mailto:tom@brucciani.co.uk) or better still ask me at the first members' meeting during the training presentation on this topic.

Tom Brucciani

Honorary Training Officer

LSRUR

## CONCUSSION – Important advice for all referees.

There is no dispute that player safety is a major part of our duties as a referee. This means we have an obligation to maintain an awareness of and, where possible, control of situations that can lead to serious injury (take high tackles as an example).

Concussion is a very real threat to player safety and the seriousness of it can sometimes not be immediately apparent. Undetected, it can lead to some very unpleasant outcomes which could even be life threatening.

For this reason, the RFU insists that head injuries are treated with the highest priority and that those directly involved in the game (players/coaches/officials/physios etc) are properly trained to recognise and respond to possible incidences of concussion.

If you have not already done so, you are strongly urged (and you may soon be compelled) to complete the Online Concussion Training Module – Headcase. This will take around 20mins and can be accessed at : <http://www.englandrugbyfiles.com/concussion/courses/match-officials/>

LSRUR referees have so far been very slow to complete this course and I urge you to do so without delay to prove that we operate to the best standards and prioritise player safety.

You may even save someone's life.

## PRESIDENTS LUNCH

The President's Lunch will be held this year on Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> at Longcliffe Golf Club and we invite members to bring their partners for a relaxing meal with fellow referees. This year we have made the time slightly later (13:00 for a 13:30 sit down) to give a chance for members refereeing on a Sunday morning to get to the lunch. The cost will be £36 per couple for a 3 course meal plus coffee, full details and meal choice will be published on the web-site.



### President's Lunch MENU

Longcliffe Golf Club – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough, LE11 3YA

13:00 for 13:30

Select from:-

#### Starters

- 1 Tomato and Basil Soup
- 2 Traditional Prawn Cocktail
- 3 Duck and Orange Pate served with Melba Toast
- 4 Melon and Fresh Berries

#### Mains

- 5 Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding
- 6 Roast Loin of Pork with Apple Sauce and Yorkshire Pudding
- 7 Poached Salmon Fillet, served with Hollandaise Sauce
- 8 Mushroom and Brie Wellington

All served with a selection of fresh seasonal vegetables, roast and new potatoes.

#### Desserts

- 9 Homemade Fresh Fruit Pavlova
- 10 Homemade Apple Crumble with Custard
- 11 Raspberry and Dark Chocolate Cheesecake
- 12 Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee/Tea and Chocolates

Lunch selection Form

First Name	Surname	Starters Number	Mains Number	Desserts Number

Cost is £36.00 per couple

Cheques should be made payable to K E Wills

Bank Transfer Natwest 60-60-40 51059789

Please send your completed form to Kerrel Wills, 10 Brook House Close, Rearsby, LE7 4YG

## UNAVAILABILITY AND CRY-OFFS

We have a new system for referees to inform the appointments team of their unavailability in the first instance but also a new method of crying off a game if you have to. Go to [www.lsrur.co.uk](http://www.lsrur.co.uk), hover over 'Fixtures', 'Fixture List' and then click on Referee Cryoffs. This will ask you to enter an email and a password. Using your email address that your appointments are sent to, click request new password and follow the instructions. Once you have your log in details you can then enter periods of unavailability which will then show up on the system.

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Referee Cryoffs

August 2017

Andrew Forsythe has very kindly organised another Society Curry night, we shall be meeting at the Criterion Pub (441 moving on to Chef's Flavour (Memory Lane, Leicester, LE1 3UL) for 9pm.

All are welcome, and it would be nice to catch up before the new season gets underway. If you are coming along please let the restaurant know the numbers in advance.

The first members' meeting of the 2017-2018 season will be on Monday 21 August 2017 at Vipers RFC.

**Congratulations!**

UNCATEGORISED

**New Committee**

SOCIETY NEWS

Congratulations to George Richardson and Tom Hurdley who have been invited to join Midlands Group and North Group respectively.

The following Commi

John Hill - Secretary

George has worked incredibly hard this season and has been rewarded with a place on

Home Fixtures Appointments Team Recruitment & Training Society Officers N

## Login

Email kerrel.wills@kewtiger.co.uk

Password .....

Submit

[Request new password](#)

Sign out

## Kerrel Wills

Start Date

July 2017

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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30 31

Cancel

Cryoffs

From To

11th Sep 2017 14th Sep 2017

Home Fixtures Appointments Team Recruitment & Training Society Officers Newsletters And Society Events Regalia Essential Documents

Sign out

## Kerrel Wills

Fixtures

Date	Type	Home	Away	Position
8th Oct 2017	League	Lutterworth	Olney	Referee
10th Dec 2017	League	Lutterworth	Five Ways Old Eds	Referee
11th Mar 2018	League	Lutterworth	Bridgenorth	Referee

Cryoffs

Add new cryoff

From To

11th Sep 2017 14th Sep 2017

Sundays:

With the official start of the new season only a few days away, it seems all very 'deja vu' due to the structured season format with the first round of the Junior County Cups being held on Sundays 17th and 24th September plus various ladies league matches in the afternoon.

As 3 of the 4 Junior referees are on their merry way to university (who between them refereed close to 100 games last season), this will put additional strain on our existing resources, so please let me know if you are available on either (or both) of these dates. I am willing to consider requests for 'local' games to reduce travelling time.

For those of you who are very organised and already have a 2018 diary, here is a date for your diary – Sunday 4th March – when the Oakham School 7s tournament is being held, which is a great day out refereeing some of the best public schools 7s teams in the country - just ask George and Elliott who really tested earlier this year in the two finals.

If you are looking for an early season run-out to improve your match fitness or test your familiarity with the Trial Laws, then please give me a call – 07896 202382 – or by email to [sunday@lsrur.co.uk](mailto:sunday@lsrur.co.uk).

Thank-you for your continued support.

Duncan Chandler  
Hon. Sunday Appointment Secretary

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Longcliffe Golf Club (below left and below right), 2017 Society Training top (bottom right).  
For more pictures, why not go to [www.lsrur.co.uk](http://www.lsrur.co.uk) and look at the gallery from the Robbies Rugby Festival on the 29 July 2017!



## CURRY SOCIAL

A big thank you to Andrew Forsythe for organising an excellent curry social on the 5 August 2017. 12 of us met in the Criterion pub for a few local ales before hopping into a taxi to Chef's Flavour where we were very well looked after, the curries were delicious and also very reasonably priced. I think we are all looking forward to the next one!

