

# Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

JANUARY 2019

The next members' meeting takes place on Monday 28 January 2019 **starting at 7pm.** George Richardson (Leicestershire and National Panel Referee) will deliver a session on the scrum at Belgrave RFC.

New members Tom Curtis and Harry Webb-Jenkins will be presented with their society kit following the completion of their first ten games for LSRUR.

## **Dates for your diary:**

**Monday 28 January 2019-** Members' meeting: George Richardson presenting on the scrum.

**Saturday 16 February 2019-** Curry night, get it in your diary!

**Friday 12 April 2019-** LSRUR Annual Dinner at Welford Road.

"Idly perusing my bookshelves recently, I came across one I bought many years ago in an antique bookshop. It was written in 1932 by a former England scrum half; D.R. Gent of Gloucester RFC. (boo-hiss) and he gives a set of principles for all positions in a team. Here are the ones for forwards.

1. Learn to dribble (no, not the usual ones following a good night out), this is the foundation of forward play and can be learnt by steady practice.
2. Learn to shove in the scrummage and fit into any position in the scrum. It should be a great glory to be able to say "I'm a front row forward"
3. Learn to tackle vigorously.
4. Think what is your job in the line-out and find the place where you can do it best.
5. Go down to all the forward rushes that are anywhere near you (having done that on numerous occasions, my back still has the stud marks).
6. Avoid wing forward play like the plague. Because we have to put up with hundreds who have well-nigh ruined the game by their tactics and their incompetence.
7. Handling the ball is only a minor part of your job, so don't give much thought to it.

These views may seem amusing today but were written in all seriousness

I well remember the days when forwards were not encouraged to pick up the ball. Happy school days!!

Noel Manchester

## SUNDAYS

A belated Happy New Year to everyone and thank-you for your messages of support during my recent illness.

2019 is an important year in the Chandler family, with my wife's 60th birthday this week, followed by my son's 21st and then my own 60th, so to celebrate we are going on a Caribbean cruise and due to the time difference/poor internet, Andy Forsythe has kindly agreed to cover Sunday appointment's from 26th January for 2 weeks. He will have access to the [sunday@lsrur.co.uk](mailto:sunday@lsrur.co.uk) emails or can be contacted via the Reapps mobile number.

Looking ahead, there are 3 busy consecutive Sundays requiring a large number of referees:

24th Feb - Girls Inter County Tournament (at Syston RFC) and referees are required both am and pm.

3rd March - Oakham School 7s and referees for both U18 & U16.

10th March - Uppingham School 7s - U18 only.

If you can help with any of these (morning, afternoon or all day), could you please contact Andy or myself.

Many thanks,

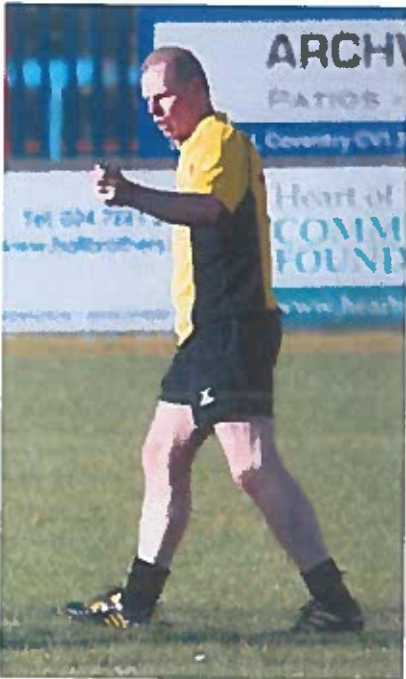
Duncan Chandler

Sunday Appointments

## Inside Out – Rhys Davies

Credit to Coventry Rugby Supporters Club <https://crsc1874.com/2019/01/17/inside-out-rhys-davies/>

**When it comes to watching Coventry at Butts Park Arena, the ex-players will nod in appreciation at the skills they recognise most. The grunt and growl of the front row, the snaffling instincts of the loose forwards, the passing, kicking and sidesteps of the back division. Rhys Davies tells Mark Forster why he'll keep an interested eye on the officials.**



**GETTING** his head wrong in a tackle ended Rhys Davies' playing days as a centre.

But ironically, the broken neck that resulted kickstarted his rugby career with whistle and, later, a flag in hand.

He's refereed at National One level, run the line in the Premiership, European Cup and one minor international match and is now the referee liaison contact at Coventry Rugby.

It was a potentially life-threatening injury that gave him a new lease of life and took his rugby to a bigger stage, not that he knew about it at the time.

*'I slipped at home,' he remembers. 'When I went to A&E the doctor went bonkers. I had broken the C4 bone in my neck four or five years earlier when I got my head on the wrong side in a tackle, but didn't know I'd broken anything.'*

The 56-year-old had already survived in rugby longer than many of his team-mates had expected.

*'I fell into the game by accident. I was a football player until I was about 24 or 25. The council pitches we played on were often waterlogged and games were getting cancelled. I was very into my fitness and went to the local rugby club because they were still training and playing.'*

*'That was Wigston Old Boys, a club that merged with Westleigh to become Leicester Lions. They invited me to turn up and play and I was asked back the following week. We played what was then Kibworth Rugby Club in that first game, and I got battered and loved it. It just happened.'*

*'I didn't know at the time that my team-mates had got a book going to see how long I would last.'*

He laughs at the memory, before talking how lucky he was to rise through the ranks as a referee.

*'That was 20 years ago. Someone suggested I keep involved with the game and become a referee, so I gave it a go. I was lucky in that time and was on the national panel in four years. I was 40 at the time and that just doesn't happen now.'*

*'Nowadays, the powers that be aren't really interested in you if you are more than 28 or 29 years old. I got to referee what is now National League One and National League Two.'*

*'Then I started suffering with sciatica and I was asked if (i.e. told) I would run the line instead. I did that in the Championship, then had two years in the Premiership. On one occasion I got sent over to Georgia to run the line there against Spain. I've had some great memories.'*

Davies has two key pieces of advice for any would-be whistlers out there.

Be fit and play the game first, to gain a better understanding of what goes on. Experience with ball in hand counts for more, in his opinion, than textbooks and lessons.

*'The game has become brutally physical over the last 10 or 15 years,' he says. 'It's the Jonah Lomu effect. As a referee you need to be as quick off the mark as a back row forward and as quick as a winger to keep up with play.'*

*'The game has changed.'*

As might be expected, he appreciates the hard yards of the referees and touch judges, or assistant referees as they are now called. He, along with Coventry Rugby and Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club organised a four-week series of talks about the

laws of the game and refereeing, calling on people like Premiership referee Christophe Ridley to talk to fans.



Davies, like most in rugby, is horrified that a referee was verbally abused following a recent game at Butts Park Arena.

*'I'm absolutely disgusted by the abuse. It shouldn't happen, but sometimes, in the heat of the moment things get said. But five minutes after the game? A game their team had won?'*

*'We talk about the core values of the game. One of them is respect. That's aimed across the spectrum of rugby, including the spectators.'*

*'Generally, I don't think I've encountered anything from players. The truth of the matter is that when people have paid their money to watch the game, they feel they have a right to criticise the referee as much as the players and, during the game, from the stands, that's okay.'*

*'But post-match, personal abuse is not acceptable.'*

*'As a ref, you understand that people don't know what they are talking about at times. The referee will always know whether they've had a good match or not, just like the players and if you have a sensible discussion with them, they will be more than happy to explain why they gave certain decisions. They see the game differently, they're watching the ball, understanding what is happening and what might happen.'*

*'The worst thing you can call a referee is a cheat. They are human, they have a passion for the game.'*

Davies talks of relationships, of friendships, or the making of acquaintances in the sport.

*'I was talking to two people who had never played rugby in their lives and used to watch football at Coventry City. They came down to watch a game at Butts Park Arena and were made to feel so welcome, they came back and are season ticket holders now. That's what the game is about.'*

*'I bumped into (former Leicester, England and British Lions prop forward) Graham Rowntree in the village barbers recently. He recognises me and had a good chat. It's always 'hello ref.'*

*'That's why rugby is phenomenal.'*

Being in charge of games at iconic grounds, with thousands of supporters roaring on their side, is another fond memory.

Welford Road, Coundon Road, Franklin Gardens, Kingsholm, Twickenham – four or five times – Rugby School's main ground at The Close, Cambridge University's Grange Road and Oxford University's Iffley Road have been among the hallowed turfs where he has plied his trade with whistle and flag.

*'When there's a big crowd, you don't so much as hear the noise as feel it,' he says. 'It moves you as a ref, so I know that the players really appreciate it. It's the same for Coventry players now at Butts Park Arena.'*

*'I don't think you ever grow out of wanting to play. When we won the league last year, I felt like saying to Rowland (Winter, Coventry's Director of Rugby) 'I've got my boots, give me a couple of minutes'. We'd won it at the time, but the game still gets you like that.'*

It's interesting that Leicestershire man Davies talks of 'we' in relation to Coventry, given that his first love of the big clubs is Leicester Tigers. It was also a club that helped him grow into the role of referee.



*'As a player you focus on your own club. As a referee you don't really have any allegiances, though I used to go into my old club after a game and have a chat. Coventry was 20 to 25 miles away. I was a Leicester boy.'*

*'We used to go down to watch the Baa Baas fixture (the annual game against Leicester) and it didn't matter who you were aligned with, who you were sitting next to, we were all there for the rugby.'*

But there are connections. He used to play in a side that included Paul (JJ) Deacon, dad of Leicester legend Louis, now Coventry's forward's coach.

*'People might not know that Dusty Hare (the former Leicester and England full-back) was at the Butts Park Arena watching the Bedford game. He helped me no end in my early refereeing days by talking to me about what the players were trying to achieve at the top level.'*

*'He totally brought the laws and the application of the laws into perspective for me.'*

*'Having the coaches talk to us is important. When I started the scrum was about crouch, hold, engage. It was about winning the hit. Then the lawmakers changed it and I was taught to keep the players waiting. Dusty asked me why.'*

*'Then Steve and Stuart Redfern, the former Tigers' props who were coaching, asked if I had ever played in the front row.'*

*'They got me in a front row onto a scrummaging machine. It felt okay, so then they got the second row involved behind me. I didn't realise the front row were on a knife edge balance. I never held players back after that.'*

*'It's about listening. It's about learning and not being afraid to talk to the players afterwards. The scrum is a very technical aspect of rugby and front row play is probably the most technical of all.'*

*'I'm a learning and development man. That was always what I enjoyed about refereeing. You had a framework, the laws of the game but it is a framework, not a set of rules. Rules can't be broken but laws can be bent.'*

He talks of the humour inherent in the game and stresses that referees can be more like coaches, telling players what they are doing wrong and encouraging them to get things right.

But he has been caught out.

*'I learned so much from a set of front row forwards because I bought them a pint when they got the better of me in a game. It was Darlington Mowden Park against Hull Ionians. The front row employed a soft hit, didn't engage, which made it look as if the opposition had gone too soon. I gave a free kick and they were all celebrating. It dawned on me that they had played me. I bought them a pint and talked with them after the game.'*

*'I had them again two weeks later and I told them to meet the hit. They laughed that they never should have accepted a pint from a referee.'*

Although he has fond memories, has enjoyed working with the best referees and players English rugby can talk of, Davies admits he didn't like the Premiership.

*'If I'm honest, 'did I enjoy the Premiership?' It was a privilege that was probably wasted on me. I absolutely did not enjoy it because it was a different game to the one I loved. I would be sitting on the edge of the bed on a Sunday morning, knowing I didn't enjoy it. I did two years then spent another three or four in the lower leagues.'*

*'At the time the lad doing the fourth official job at Coventry wanted to retire and go travelling. It came up and I went for it. It's nice for me, because I get the chance to meet old mates.'*





*“The role is more of a referee liaison official. I will get an email telling me who the officials are and I get in touch with them, making sure they can make the game. On match day I will welcome them, get them a coffee and have a chat, hopefully about old times, and make sure they are made welcome and comfortable and have everything they need. If it makes 50/50 decisions swing into a 51/49 in our favour, it’s worth it.”*

And his advice when people are unhappy with a referee’s performance?

*“Talk to them in the bar afterwards. Be polite and ask why they made a decision. They will be more than happy to explain. But don’t abuse them.”*



Can you spot the two current LSRUR society members in the above picture of the 1974 Leicestershire Colts team?



## MEMORANDUM

---

To: Michael Priestley (RFRU Chair)

Cc: Ian Woodgate (RFRU Secretary)  
John Lawn (Head of Game Development)

From: Michael Patz (Match Official Development Manager)

Date: 17/01/2019 Ext: 07710 381814  
[michaelpatz@rfu.com](mailto:michaelpatz@rfu.com)

---

**Subject: Match Official Development Update**

---

Dear Mike,

Please find the briefing report for the RFRU Board meeting held on 17/01/2019, which will also be circulated to referee societies.

Kind regards,

*Michael*

- **Match Official Development Priorities 2018-19**

- Grow** Engage with referee organisations, CBs, LDTs & education establishments to:
- Manage the roll out of **YMO programmes** – i.e. All Schools, Universities, Clubs, Referee Societies
  - Grow the number of **active female match officials** – i.e. qualify female players, to make them better players and encourage them to develop their rugby journey

- Engage** Develop, review and deliver identified training resources to:
- Support the uptake & use of **accredited RFU resources**, courses and match officiating best practice for referee organisations, clubs and education
  - Develop & activate the **England Rugby Referees Association** to provide match officials to meet the growing demand for match officials across all game

- Protect** Support colleagues and partners to:
- Recruit, develop, support and retain match officials' on their **Match Official Development pathway**
  - Provide match official (**KYBO**) recruitment and development opportunities in conjunction with player & coach recruitment and competition offers

- **Grow & Engage**

### Young Match Officials

Numbers of young people taking a refereeing course remain strong; the focus for the season has been seeking appropriate opportunities for practical application of the new skills and knowledge in an environment acceptable to the candidates.

The best results have been achieved where the MODO, Local Delivery Team, Referee Society and Programme Lead have work together to arrange the training, with pre-planned timely refereeing opportunities with the chance to put the learning into practice, at a club, school or local festival.

For those leading programmes the [Guide to Developing Young Match Officials](#) is a go to document.



### Active Female Match Officials

The England Rugby Female Match Official Development Programme continues to grow. The introductory video designed to motivate a new generation of female referees, [Be The Best You](#) maintains strong analytics.



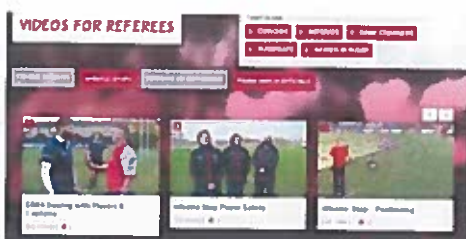
As the programme develops a number of initiatives are being initiated:

- Facebook forum created specifically for female match officials
- A pilot for strength and conditioning support for the rest of season 2018/19. Fifteen active female match officials have been invited to participate, from varying levels, and different officiating experience on a national geographic spread.

- **Protect**

### Keep Your Boots On! (KYBO)

The work to enhance and add functionality to the KYBO platforms continues. Recent changes have seen the development of the [KYBO Video Library](#) and the addition of Discipline Report Writing guidance to the [KYBO Referee Resources](#) webpage.



## England Rugby Referee Association (ERRA)

The association continues to grow, with over 10,000 members. We keep in contact with association members through eZine's and Twitter, at the same time seeking feedback from them. The overriding themes have been Pitch-side Behaviour and Managing Captains & Players.

- Whistle-Stop – [Dealing with Players and Captains](#) was released late in 2018 and through social media platforms on 04.01.2019 with over 7k views to date
- Whistle-Stop – Managing the Touchline, will go out to ERRA members w/c 28/01/2019



## Match Official Development & Performance Review Reports

In August 2018 the Rugby Football Referees' Union and England Rugby's Match Official Development Team introduced a nationally standardised approach to supporting the development of match officials, placing the match official(s) at the centre of a two-way high quality feedback process.

The purpose of this short survey is to gather feedback from all those who have had experience of being part of the review process.

Please access the link to share your experiences:

[Match Official Development & Performance Review Reports Survey](#)

Access to the link will close on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

## National Panel

National Panel Regional Technical Meetings were held w/c 07/01/2019, delivered in two parts:

- Performance Review coherence session based on a recent game
- Referees and coaches focusing on the Lineout to Maul, supported by referees from the PGMOT

National Panel Mid-season Selection has been completed with 5 new referees added to National Panel Referees:

- George Richardson
- Alan Chandrachud
- Owen Taylor
- Sam Phillips
- James Milliner-Woodcock

Additional appointments include:

- U19 Internationals (2 x Referees – Jack Lewars and Charlie Gayther)
- WRU Exchange (2 Referees)
- Women's Varsity Match: To3, Nikki O'Donnell, Niamh Hennesey and Nia Parsonage
- Women's 6 Nations: Nikki O'Donnell, Laura Pettingale and Katie Richie. Nikki and Laura as referees and Katie as AR1



## MEMORANDUM

---

To: Referee Society Secretaries

Cc: Ian Woodgate (RFRU Secretary)  
John Lawn (Head of Game Development)

From: Michael Patz (Match Official Development Manager)

Date: 16/01/2019 Ext: 07710 381814  
[michaelpatz@rfu.com](mailto:michaelpatz@rfu.com)

---

**Subject: Discipline Report Writing Guidance**

---

It has long been an acknowledged part of our game that the vast majority of Match Officials give voluntarily of their time and that generally speaking they do not like issuing red cards. It is recognised as one of the least attractive aspects of their role, as is completing the subsequent discipline reports.

Nevertheless, there is much to be gained from getting it right first time. A report which is accurate, factual and detailed is likely to be accepted by the offending player and where the report contains sufficient detail regarding the incident it enables the discipline panel to deal with the matter without clarification or attendance by the referee at the hearing.

To support the accurate completion of writing discipline reports, the RFU Discipline and the RFU Match Official Development teams have produced a two page Discipline Report Writing Guidance document (attached) to assist referees in ensuring that all relevant matters are covered. The document can be found on WTR, the KYBO site at:

[Keep Your Boots on - Referee resources](#)

We are sure referees will find referring to the document helpful when completing a discipline report form. Further guidance and advice can be sought through your local Match Official Development Officer.

Kind regards,

*David*

**David Barnes**  
Head of RFU Discipline

*Michael*

**Michael Patz**  
RFU Match Official  
Development Manager

*Tim*

**Dr Tim Miller**  
Chair of the RFU  
Laws Sub-Committee



# DISCIPLINE REPORT WRITING GUIDANCE

## PART 1 - DETAILS

**Competition:** What was the name of the competition? (E.g. *Shire Merit Table Second Division*)

**Match Date:** What date was the match played on?

**Player's Full Name:** What was the full name of the dismissed player?

**Position:** Select the player's position

**No.:** What was the player's shirt number?

**Player's Club:** What club does the dismissed player play for? (E.g. *Rovers Old Boys*)

**Home Team:** What was the name of the home team? (E.g. *Rovers Old Boys 3rd Team*)

**Score:** What was the final score of the home team?

**Away Team:** What was the name of the away team? (E.g. *Vikings 2nd Team*)

**Score:** What was the final score of the away team?

**Venue:** Which venue was the game played at? (E.g. *Rovers Old Boys RFC*)

**Ground/Weather Conditions:** What were the ground/weather conditions? (E.g. *Artificial grass pitch/Persistent rain*)

## PART 2 - THE INCIDENT

**Offence:** Select the offence

**Period Incident Occurred:** Select the period when the incident occurred

**Timing:** Input the time of the match when the offence occurred

**Score at Time:** Input the score at the time of the incident

**Nature of Offence:** Select the correct World Rugby Law Reference

**Proximity of Referee/Asst. Referee to Incident:** Approximate distance (in metres) from the incident

**Brief report of discussion of incident between match officials:** Only complete if the game had other appointed officials, who discussed the incident with the referee at the time

**Did the incident require medical attention either on or off the field?**

**Where the offending act of foul play caused an injury:**

-What was the nature and apparent extent of the injury?

-Did the injured player require treatment?

-Were there any obvious symptoms to suggest that the injured player might be concussed?

-Was the injured player able to resume playing in the game?

**Any other details:** Include whether the game was recorded and if any other cards were issued during the game

## DETAILED REPORT CHECKLIST

### CONTEXT

- Where on the field did the incident take place?
- What was happening in terms of play at the time – e.g. was the ball in open play, was there a ruck or maul situation?
- Was there anything to obstruct your view of the incident?

### STRIKING

- Where the incident involved the striking of a blow:
  - What part of the body was used to inflict (or attempt to inflict) the blow?
  - Where was the victim at the time the blow was aimed, in particular, was the victim in a position where he/she could protect him/herself or take evasive action?
  - What part of the victim's body was the blow aimed at?
  - Did the blow make contact?
  - Was the force of the blow such as to knock the victim to the ground?

### KICK/STAMP

- Where the incident involved a kick or stamp:
  - What part of the body was the kick or stamp aimed at?
  - Where was the victim when the kick or stamp was aimed, in particular, was the victim in a position where he could protect him/herself or take evasive action?
  - Did the kick or stamp make contact?

### DANGEROUS TACKLING

- Where the incident occurred in a tackle situation and involved contact with an opponent's head or neck:
  - What part of the offending Player's body made contact with the victim's head or neck?
  - If this was not the initial point of contact, where was the initial point of contact?
  - What were the 'mechanics' of the tackle or attempted tackle, in particular, was there any attempt by the Player to wrap his arms around the ball carrier?
  - How much force was used?

### •Where the incident involved a challenge in the air.

- What were the positions of the players in relation to each other (e.g. height off the ground)?
- Were they both in a realistic position to compete for the ball?
- What were the actions of the offending Player?
- How did the victim land?

### •Where the incident involved a lifting tackle:

- Were the tackled player's legs lifted beyond the horizontal?
- How was the tackled player brought to ground (e.g. dropped or driven)?
- How did the tackled player land?
- Did the tackled player have to place a hand down to prevent him/herself from landing on his/her head, neck or shoulder?

### OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

- Was the offending Player provoked and, if so, what the nature of the provocation?
- Was the offending Player retaliating to something and, if so, what?
- Was there anything to suggest that the offending Player was acting as to defend him/herself?
- Did the offending Player have to travel any distance to become involved?
- What was the response of the other players to the offending Player's actions?
- Was any other player sanctioned as a result of the same incident?
- Did the offending Player offer any explanation for his/her actions at the time or subsequently?
- Did the offending Player demonstrate remorse or contrition at the time or subsequently?

## INCIDENT DESCRIPTION EXAMPLES

### DETAILED REPORT OF INCIDENT

In the 21st minute Rovers Old Boys' no. 13 was in possession of the ball during open play. He was approximately 15 metres from the opposition's goal line and 15 metres in from touch.

Rovers Old Boys' no. 13 was tackled by Vikings' no. 4. The ball carrier's legs were lifted beyond the horizontal by Vikings' no. 4, who then dropped the ball carrier to ground. The Rovers Old Boys' no. 13 placed his hands down to prevent himself from landing on his head.

I stopped play, dismissed the Vikings' no. 4 and restarted play with a penalty to Rovers Old Boys.

After the game the Vikings' no. 4 apologised for his actions.

### DETAILED REPORT OF INCIDENT

In the 50th minute Rovers Old Boys' no. 11 jumped off the ground to gather a high kick, 5 metres in from touch on the half way line. The Vikings no. 14 also jumped in an attempt to reach the ball but was at a lower height and never in a position to compete for possession.

The Vikings no. 14 grabbed the Rovers Old Boys' no. 11's legs whilst he was in the air, which caused the Rovers Old Boys' no. 11 to land on his shoulder.

I stopped play, dismissed Vikings no. 14 and restarted play with a penalty to Rovers Old Boys.

**RED CARD REPORTS FOR ALL LEVELS OF RUGBY ARE AVAILABLE AT:**

**KEEPYOURBOOTSON.CO.UK/  
REFEREE-RESOURCES/**



**KEEP YOUR  
BOOTS ON!**