

# Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

March 2018

The members' meeting takes place on Monday 26 March 2018 at Belgrave RFC, Tom Brucciani will be delivering a session on: "**Detecting Patterns of Play**" - **How to identify and respond to trends in the game.**

## Dates for your diary:

**Saturday 24 March 2018**- Curry night, meet at the Parcel Yard from 6.30pm, then on for a curry circa 8.30pm/9pm, please let Andy Forsythe know if you intend to attend so he can liaise with the restaurant.

**Monday 26 March 2018**- Members' Meeting at Belgrave RFC.

**Thursday 29 March 2018**- County Cup Semi Finals

Syston v Oadby Wyggs, to be refereed by Louis Massarella

Market Bosworth v Belgrave, to be refereed by Jenny Burrows

**Friday 20 April 2018**- Annual Dinner at Welford Road. Please circulate the flyer/details to your clubs, friends and family. Let's make this the most enjoyable one yet!

**Sunday 22 April 2018**- Match Observer Course, if you are interested in attending please contact either Mark Elliott or Geoff Blackburn

**Monday 23 April 2018** – Grading Meeting, make sure your coaching reports have been sent to Peter Bower. If you would like to be assessed contact Geoff Blackburn ASAP!

**Monday 30 April 2018**- Rearranged Varsity matches at Welford Road. To be refereed by Andrew Forsythe and Louis Massarella.

**Monday 21 May 2018**- LSRUR AGM at Vipers

If your game is cancelled due to inclement weather or for any other reason – please let the your appointment secretaries know, it only takes 30 seconds to send a text! (or slightly longer for Mr Massarella) . There are no excuses for not keeping the society informed!

## Note from your Chairman

As we enter the final few weeks of the season, most clubs are having to reschedule a number of fixtures due to the 'beasts from the east' that we have recently experienced. I have heard several accounts of referees and Match Observers braving the elements last Saturday; well done to you all!

Due to the ongoing hard work of your appointment secretaries, we are continuing to cover almost all games that are notified to us, from both local clubs and schools. It is your continuing availability however, that allows this to happen and all the clubs and schools benefit from this.

I have been forced to hang up my whistle for the remainder of this season, after an accident at work. However, I have continued with my role as referee coach and have watched some interesting games. Several of us will be attending an RFU Match Observer course on the 22nd April, which will hopefully provide the Society with more members able to carry out observations of other referees. If anyone is interested in this, please drop me a line and you will be welcome to come along.

The committee have recently been sourcing several items for the membership for next season. For those referees who have completed 10 games this season, we will be providing a full set of kit (and I guarantee you will like the design!), a set of touch judge flags and a new score card holder.

We are also continuing to organise the final details of the referees dinner, to be held at the Leicester Tigers on Friday 20th April 2018. If you have not already got your ticket(s), please contact John Haggart and he will sort that out for you. I guarantee that you will have a good night and it would be great to get as many of our members there as possible, plus guests.

I look forward to seeing you at the members meeting on Monday 26th March, at Belgrave and please note the date for our AGM has been confirmed as Monday 21st May (this is different to as advertised in the members handbook, due to an RFU briefing which is being held on the 14th May).

As always, LSRUR is your Society and the committee do their best to provide for the needs of its members. We are all very approachable, so please do get in touch should you have any issues at all with your refereeing.

Mark Elliott

Chairman

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees



# Annual Dinner...

Friday 20th April 2018 7.15 for 8pm  
Leicester Tigers Aylestone Road Leicester LE2 7TR

Speakers...

*Paul Baardman*

Paul is a stand-up comedian and speaker, writing and performing his material and with a sharp line in observational comedy.



*Paul Wallace*

Paul Wallace is a former Ireland and British & Irish Lion who was once regarded as the world's best tight-head prop and his greatest moment as a player was the Lions' series victory against South Africa in 1997.



*Reserve your tickets now.*

**Email [johnhaggart64@sky.com](mailto:johnhaggart64@sky.com)**

**Tickets £37.50 Members of LSRUR £35.00 Table of 10 £350**

## **A Day in the Life...of Peter Bower**

I often get asked what it is like refereeing our wonderful game at Level 7 first team level. The undoubted glamour that goes with this is often taken for granted so here, for posterity is a days experience for all aspiring referees to aim for.

To set the scene:-

Sunday evening/ Monday morning – eagerly await that ‘ping’ on the text page to announce the next Saturdays appointment – whoopee – a trip of 1 hour 15 minutes to distant Stamford, bottom of the league, played 17 won 1, v Market Bos played 17 won 8 lost 8, could be a bit one sided.

An early confirmation from Matt at Stamford (who will help me with all my decisions from the sideline as always!) requesting an early kick off (12.00 noon) so the players can watch the England game. No problem I tell him, but please confirm that Market Bosworth know as well and agree – it usually helps if both teams are heading for the same kick off time!

Weather forecast for Saturday is 0 degrees with a 25 mph wind giving a -8 to -10 wind chill – beautiful!

My journey across to Stamford is uneventful, blizzards aside, and I duly arrive at 10.45 at the ground. Stamford are warming up – no sign of Bosworth.

No worries as they all arrive together in a mini bus – they are stopping after for the International – that could get messy.

The Stamford changing room is a bit bleak, but the old fashioned, health and safety nightmare, electric bar heater in the ceiling is always a pleasure to look forward to especially on days like this. Unfortunately, they have removed it and replaced it with a touch sensitive, ‘state of the art’, modern fan heater – only slight problem – it wont work – grrrrrr!

Still, theres always the brand new shower to look forward to after the game.

I get changed and put every item of clothing I can find in my kit bag on – it really is cold out there.

Two quick laps of the pitch and I’m colder than I was when I started – it really is cold out there.

I wander over to each team to do a very brief brief! Strangely, they both have strips that have blue sleeves – on closer inspection those sleeves are actually blue arms – it really is cold out there.

An end to end game, well below freezing, two blizzards, one of the three spectators treated for frostbite (I made that bit up but there were only three spectators), and a nail biting finish. Game played in the best of spirits, no cards, good humour and a 24 – 27 score line that flattered the winners (Bosworth), I suppose that's how your luck goes when you are already relegated.

Still, now I can get in that lovely new shower and try to thaw out these frozen hands and knees.

On with the power, on with the water, on with the soap – off with the heating element!!!!

LP on the display I assume means low pressure – I calculate 30 seconds to rinse off – wrong – immediately freezing water!

So gentlemen – these are the lofty heights and pleasures that all aspiring referees have to look forward to.

Strangely though, it made for a most enjoyable day for me and is the reason we keep coming back for more.

Enjoy your Rugby!

Peter Bower – Hon Grading Secretary (now thawed out)

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Martin Prince is riding the Prudential Ride 100 London to Surrey this July in order to raise money for the RFU Injured Players Foundation, who support players and their families following catastrophic injuries caused in rugby matches. A worthy cause I am sure you would all agree. He has pledged to raise £600 to help the charity and is looking for sponsors or donations to help him do this. He has a justgiving page established to make donating easier. If you would like to sponsor him please contact him!

I took part last year and it is a fantastic event and a real achievement to cycle 100 miles through the capital and the Surrey hills, good luck on Leith Hill!

Thank you to Tom Brucciani for providing this 'Masterclass', if you stick to these principles you will have no bother at all on a Saturday afternoon!

## 15 Unwritten rules of officiating

(Adapted from American Baseball Magazine)

1. When you "think" you saw something - you didn't see anything. Call only what you see, gut feeling is silent
2. Captain is key - if he isn't a captain feel free to find the captain
3. Momentum - keep the game flowing if you can
4. Give the players some love – injury? sympathise, angry? empathise, marginal? advise don't penalise if you can
5. Longer leash to those in charge - captains are allowed privileges as long as they don't abuse them
6. Benefit of doubt to those who deserve it - if they cry wolf, then don't listen. If they are usually reasonable then perhaps their beef has some merit
7. Eye contact - when talking to players and coaches, look them in the eye – be credible and show respect. Especially when times are tough
8. When in doubt, do what is expected - never shirk a decision and if it is marginal, go for one of the options with conviction. Remove the doubt by your decision.
9. Answer questions, not statements - "He's offside", "He's holding on" are not things that demand us to reply. If a captain comes to you and says this, ask him if he has a question and answer it. Then you remind him of the "right time and right manner" agreement made at the Captains' brief. If players shout during a game, then manage it out. If coaches shout, don't grace it with a reply.
10. Don't answer a question to which you don't have the answer - don't guess or speculate. Stick to what you know for sure. Simply say you haven't seen it or you would be guessing.
11. Get the game moving after a mistake, but always acknowledge the mistake with an apology.
12. Be 100% sure if making an unexpected call - imagine if everyone swears he was in touch and you say not - you need to be sure. You need to say "I am positive." Also, don't get technical if no-one expects it.

13. Less is more - do not whistle if it's not necessary. Advantage is your best friend

14. Let the players help you make the call - look at both sides - most are rubbish actors

15. When the game is obviously won, you need to up your game - or you will get caught unawares.



### \*CAPTION COMPETITION\*

Here is Andrew Forsythe, LSRUR referee and master of organising our social gatherings in breweries and curry houses in Leicester and beyond. But who can come up with the best caption from the above photo? Taken during a Lutterworth RFC match recently. The best (cleanest) captions will be posted in the next newsletter!