

# Leicestershire Society Of Rugby Union

## Referees Newsletter:



In the August edition:



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## Word from the president

I remember things going as normal in March this year and then the command from the RFU to cancel all games. Now we have had nearly 6 months when Rugby has not been played at local level.

I know that many of us love Easter to come around for a break but then look forward to 7's & 10's rugby in the sunshine and by now we would be thinking of friendly games to encourage us to get fit for the new season.

Can I thank your committee in ensuring contact with all of you during this very difficult time. We have had the training sessions enabling all of us to keep "fit" and also posting old pictures of our members enjoying refereeing the game we love <https://www.lsrur.co.uk/newsletters-society-events/picture-gallery/event/gallery/Keepingincontact>

It has been interesting getting our more senior members to remember when a particular trip took place, memories suffer as you get older. It has been lovely that so many members have been contacting other members to ensure they are OK. Looking forward, we hope that local games will start again before this time in 2021.

Also, a big thank you for the contribution to the Society by Josh Burgess and best wishes for his upcoming marriage, and also to Tom Brucciani for his new job in Holland.



## Word from the president

However, the President's Lunch is still going to take place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 13:00 at Longcliffe Golf Club as last year. I hope this will go ahead as planned and allow many of us to get together with correct "social distancing". The club have said they can cope with 7 tables of 6. So, I ask you to consider if you wish to attend and let me know as soon as possible if you can put together a "bubble" of 6. Full details of the menu and cost will be sent out in September and no money will be required until the 19<sup>th</sup> October.



Thank you all for what you contribute to our Society that makes it one of the best in the country.

Kerrel Wills,  
LSRUR President



# Laws of the Game Rugby Union

## Law Updates

World Rugby has announced that, with immediate effect, it will no longer be possible to score a try by grounding the ball against the post protector.

The minor amendment to Law 8 was approved by the World Rugby Council during its special meeting held via teleconference today and follows a recommendation by the international federation's Rugby Committee and specialist Laws Review Group.

With defending players currently legally obliged to stay behind the goal-line and post-protector shape and size increasing for welfare reasons, it is increasingly difficult for teams to legally defend this area.

In some extreme cases, post protectors have been lifted or moved by defending teams, leaving the posts exposed and therefore increasing the risk of injury.

**The amended law will now read:** The post protector is no longer an extension of the goal-line and therefore Law 8.2 (a) will read: *A try is scored when the attacking player is first to ground the ball in the opponents' in-goal.*



# Laws of the Game Rugby Union

## Law Updates

World Rugby Chairman Sir Bill Beaumont said: "World Rugby's mission is to make the game as simple, safe and enjoyable to play as possible. This law amendment reflects that mission.

"By stipulating that an attacking team can no longer score against the post protector and therefore must ground the ball in-goal, this gives defending teams a fair chance of preventing a try from being scored."

The 2020 Laws of the Game are accessible in 11 languages online at [www.laws.worldrugby.org](http://www.laws.worldrugby.org) and three languages on the mobile App via [Google Play](#) and the [Apple Store](#). **There is also an online quiz for budding laws experts.**

Meanwhile, World Rugby continues to monitor evaluate [ongoing closed law trials](#), which have been implemented with enhancing player welfare in mind. They will resume when rugby resumes.

Initial feedback for the 50:22 and the below the waist tackle are encouraging, with the latter resulting in a three-fold decrease in injuries and a 60 per cent reduction in concussion in the French community game.



## Society Training news

We still have 3 main training sessions on every week;

Monday – Cycling, this ranges from mountain biking to road cycling at changes in venue. Please get in contact with George Richardson or Mark Elliot to find out details.

Tuesday – Fartlek training with Mark Elliot continues at Nanpantan Sports ground and is really for anyone (picture below).



Wednesday – Crossfit and Running with Andrew Forsythe held at Hinkley Rugby club and Burbage Rugby club. Please contact Andrew for more details.



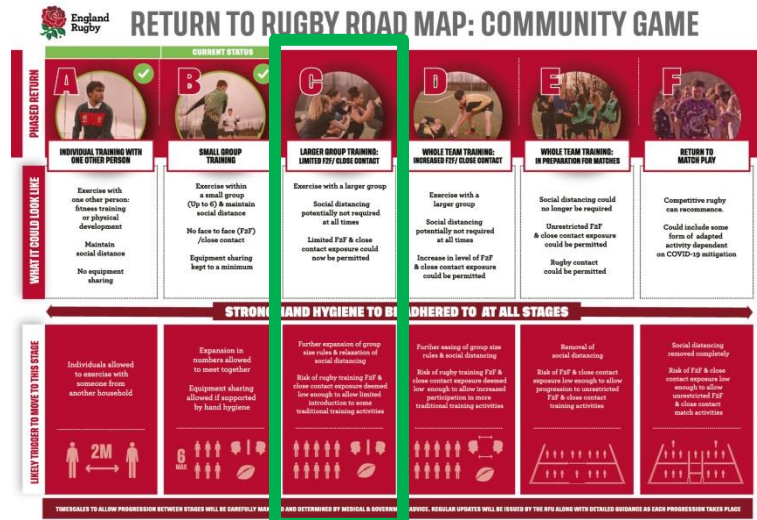
As pubs, restaurants and bars are now open, the majority of sessions are finishing with a drink to chew the fat over all things life and rugby. If this is something you would be interested in then come to a session at the finish to join in.





## Society Training news

Return to rugby has seen us move from stage B to stage C. This affects us as a society as it means that we can now train in larger groups and therefore the limit of 6 people will be lifted. However, please be aware of Government guidance and keep an eye on the local Leicester ban as this is still in place.



### STAGE C MATCH OFFICIAL GUIDANCE

<b>SYMPTOM SELF CHECK</b>  <b>DO NOT LEAVE HOME IF YOU HAVE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A HIGH TEMPERATURE</li> <li>• NEW PERSISTENT COUGH</li> <li>• LOSS OF OR CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE</li> </ul>	<b>ARRIVE CHANGED FOR ACTIVITY WHERE POSSIBLE WITH OWN CLEARLY LABELLED WATER BOTTLE</b>	<b>CONDUCT ALL BRIEFINGS AND EQUIPMENT CHECKS OUTDOORS</b>
<b>FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES OUTSIDE OF GAME TIME INCLUDING DRINKS BREAKS (INCLUDING IF SANCTIONING IS REQUIRED)</b>	<b>CARRY OUT THE COIN TOSS YOURSELF</b>  <b>AVOID SHOUTING WHERE POSSIBLE</b>	<b>MAXIMUM CONTINUOUS ACTIVITY DURATION OF 15 MINUTES</b>

**FOR FULL DETAILED GUIDANCE VISIT [ENGLANDRUGBY.COM/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.englandrugby.com/coronavirus)**





## Society online kit shop

Leicestershire Society have modernised the way we distribute and hold kit. In the past we have been extremely lucky to have Roger Wooley who has kept all of the kit in his garage and brought it to every end of month meeting. We have now set up an online shop that will have all kit available to purchase at the click of a button, with very short lead times.

We have not decided how we are going to issue credits yet but this will be done so that referees who join us and referee their 10 games will get free refereeing kit as per previous seasons as a thank you for your hard work. (playing kit pictured)

The committee have also worked hard to develop a bespoke social and leisure wear so that you can represent the society when you want to be a little more comfortable. More on leisure wear and assessor wear in the next issue.

We have also manage to get some bespoke coats so that our assessors and coaches can wear a Leicestershire society coat when watching our referees which is vital to helping them get better. Massive thanks to the committee for sorting this as it will tell us apart from other societies.







## Purchasing of new equipment

At the back end of last season, the RFRU awarded the society a development grant to help purchase equipment to assist with the progression and training of society members.

Kerrel Wills and I on behalf of the committee have worked together with our web hosting provider pro web to source the required equipment to enable a new capability for the society to video and Audio record referee's matches. This can then be easily uploaded online to be able to watch and listen to yourself back on your own or with your coach/mentor.

Previously this was difficult as members had to join a large waiting list to be videod and it wasn't all available for all members. Another option previously was to ask clubs that filmed games for a copy but again this has proven difficult.

The process will be easy to record, upload and view using our existing website. All rights to the video will belong to Leicestershire referee society and security of the videos and access will be looked after by our data manager, Andrew Forsyth. Allowing Coach, Mentor and referee to access their own games will be a huge benefit. In future even clipping games for training sessions.



## Purchasing of new equipment

We hope that, if successful, we can source another kit and make this even more accessible to referees of all levels further supporting our Match official Development and coaching cause.

There is even the option to use the footage as a group to further showcase grassroots rugby and clips that are closer to the society in comparison to what World Rugby and the RFU offer from the National and world stage.

I would personally like to thank Malcolm Eames for his help and advice during this as he has spent many years filming for the society and the RFU.

Thanks,

Luke Thompson.





## Hertfordshire Raffle

Herts launch their latest initiative. The Restart Rugby Raffle - A raffle aimed to give players, referees, coaches and clubs the chance to own amazing pieces of Rugby Memorabilia! Follow the link below to purchase your tickets! Some raffle prizes have been uploaded to the just giving page, more will follow throughout August! The raffle is open to anyone in the UK with currently over 50 prizes available!!!

### Story

COVID19 has stopped the game we love. It has also placed great strain on our fantastic National Health Service (NHS). There is however light at the end of the tunnel! By following Government Guidelines the UK is getting to grips with this pandemic. Rugby is also set to make a return in line with the Unions return to playing stage gates.

To build momentum towards Restarting Rugby, Hertfordshire Referees has decided to host an extra special Rugby Raffle! We have engaged the rugby family and they have donated some fantastic Prizes (over 50) for players, referees, coaches and club houses! We are doing this to not only put a smile on the faces of the rugby family but also to raise money to support our NHS. We are fundraising for the East and North Hertfordshire hospitals Charity! The charity supports the four hospitals within the East and North Hertfordshire Trust- Lister Hospital, The New QEII, Hertford County and Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, helping them to go above and beyond for patients and their loved ones. The charity funds the purchase of new specialist equipment, extra staff training, research and projects to enhance patient experience.

The raffle is open to anyone in the UK with tickets costing £1 per entry and you can buy as many as you like! PLEASE NOTE - As this is a raffle there is no gift aid option. This site will be open for the entire month of August with the draw due to take place on Friday, 4th of September. PLEASE LEAVE your email address as a message with your donation so we can contact you with your prize if you are lucky enough to win.

Visit Hertfordshire Referees facebook page.

Interview with one of ours

William Richards / **Editors Comments**



Name: William Richards / **AKA Billy**

Age: 22 / **Young**

Family place of living: Oxfordshire / **Not Leicestershire**

Your current place of living: Loughborough / **Leicestershire**

Job/studying: Studying Geography and Sports Management at Loughborough University / **Sounds useful**

Two truths and a lie: Run a marathon, have appeared on the TV show 'The Chase', colour blind. / **Colour blind would make sense being a ref**

Any interests outside of rugby: I am a keen road cyclist, and would like to one day climb Mount Everest. I am also interested in the causes of barriers to participation in sport, particularly with regards to gender, race and wealth, and looking at how this differs between the North and South of the UK and within education. / **Climb Mount Everest on a bike?**

Years involved in rugby: 13 Years / **Rugby man**

Did you play: Yes / **debatable being a winger**

Playing Position: Full back/Inside centre /Winger/ **hope you're quick**

Club/school team: Chinnor Rugby Club



Interview with one of ours

William Richards / **Editors Comments**



Best game you've been to watch: Watching the British & Irish Lions in New Zealand. / **At least you didn't say a Wales game**

Why referee now: Suffered a fairly bad head injury whilst playing in Australia aged 19, and found myself always worrying about hitting my head again when I returned to playing and had always thought about going into refereeing. / **Lets hope he is a better referee than player**

Who recruited you: Loughborough University offered to cover the costs for me to qualify and I saw it as a good opportunity to do something I hadn't yet got around to doing. Noel Manchester was there to introduce the society to me. / **Free loader. Good Work Noel!!**

How long refereeing: 18 months (January 2019) / **Newbie!**

Current level: 8 / **Hardest Level to referee**

Favourite game so far: Leicester Lions 2 v Sutton Bonington / **I watched that and it was a great game, well refereed.**

Favourite memory with society so far: Being asked to AR with Andrew Forsythe for Louis Massarello. The match was Kidderminster v Tamworth in Midlands West playoff. It was only a few months after I started refereeing and was my first experience with a large crowd and first long journey for refereeing. / **Who is Louis Massarello?**

Interview with one of ours

William Richards / **Editors Comments**



Worst memory with society so far: Giving my first red card. I always aim to keep 30 players on the pitch / **Isn't your fault as the players control the scenario and you issue the sanction.**

Most embarrassing memory in society so far: I will never forget my second game, it was my first men's game. Syston 4s v Shepshed, Cliff Hawkins was there watching. I awarded a penalty which was taken quickly and scored from immediately. There were no complaints and the scoring side had returned to the halfway line, and the kicker was lining up. Moments later the conceding captain came up to say the quick tap penalty had been taken between the 5m line and the try line, and not on the 5m line. I had to turn around with everyone watching (arguably only a few spectators) to disallow the try and have the 'scoring side' walk back and retake the penalty. I learnt quickly to always stay alert! / **Would you change your decision now?**

Favourite referee: Quite a few; Christophe Ridley for the route he took and the way he started at LSRUR as I have done, Luke Pearce for his interactions with the players and Wayne Barnes for his calmness under pressure / **ONE OF OUR OWN! CHRISTOPHE FAN CLUB!!**

Refereeing Motto: Firstly, control the controllable such as; my preparation, fitness and appearance. Secondly, you never know who is watching, whether it's an assessor unexpectedly turning up or a players parent who is involved in refereeing or the RFU. / **or the Society. Love this attitude.**

# With Thanks...

As a society we must recognise two men that have helped that society over the last number of years and will be dramatically missed in their roles within the society and the committee.

Tom Brucciani has accepted a fantastic new role for work in Holland which will be a great step and adventure for him. Unfortunately due to this he has had to step down as the society training officer. Tom has had multiple roles within the society and he will be sorely missed from all of them. We would like to wish him well in his work and can look forward to when he returns and can whistle for us or have a drink with us once again.

Josh Burgess has asked his partner, Rachel Allen, to become his wife. She has said yes which means that Josh needs to spend his free time planning the wedding and not writing newsletters. Josh has been the promotions officer for the society for an amazing 6 years and the committee would like to thank him for his amazing commitment.

I would like to personally thank Kerrel Wills, Luke Thompson and Billy Richards for their help in this weeks article and Andrew Forsythe and Mark Elliot for still running their fitness sessions.

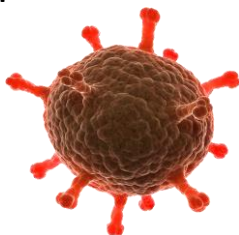


# What to expect in next months edition:

## Leicestershire Society Of Rugby Union Referees Newsletter:



In the September edition:



Covid and where  
we stand



Society Training EOM  
Training



Society online kit  
shop: How it works



Leisure wear and Assessors  
wear



Curry Nights



Meeting the match  
observer