

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

August 2016
FIRST MEMBERS MEETING OF THE 2016-2017
SEASON

MONDAY 22 AUGUST 2016 @ VIPERS RFC, 7PM
FOR 7.30PM

LSRUR have 11 tickets available for each Autumn international match at Twickenham. If you are interested please contact John Hill. If demand exceeds the ticket allocation, they will go to a ballot.

If you refereed 10 games or more in the 2015-2016 season you are entitled to collect the new set of society kit at the first members meeting, provided that you have paid your annual subs! You can pay your subs by direct transfer (details set out below), cheque or cash on the night of the first meeting.

Bank of Scotland
LSRUR
12-20-26
01875248

If you have any excess or unwanted referee kit, please bring it to the members meeting. We will be having a collection and donating the kit to those less fortunate than ourselves.

If you have not already sent your availability to Mark Elliott and Kerrel Wills, please send it to them now because September appointments are starting to be allocated.

Date for your diary!

The annual dinner will take place on Friday 21 April
2017



Could you please inform your respective clubs that there will be:

Level 2 Refereeing the 15-a-side Game courses (replacing the old ELRA course) in November and December .

There will also be some referee CPD courses before Christmas, contact Paul Macmillan for more information.

Welcome!

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I welcome you all back to the new season, as Chairman of the Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees. I am honoured to take up the position as your Chairman and will do all I can to keep the Society in the excellent health that it currently is.

Firstly I must thank our previous Chairman, Mr Rhys Davies, for 6 years at the helm and for guiding the Society to where it is today. I hope that I can continue in the same vein.

The Society operates so smoothly because of the Officers and members of the committee, who all work tirelessly at their particular role, to ensure that Rugby Union in Leicestershire is provided with competent referees, at the correct level.

Our President, Dave Flick, is the figure head of the Society and represents us at various events and levels.

John Hill is our Secretary and carries out all the unseen administration behind the scenes, that keeps the Society ticking and in contact with the RFU etc.

Nick Lacey is the figures man and looks after the finances of the Society at our treasurer. I am pleased to report that the finances are 'in good heart' and this is down to the meticulous work of Nick.

Myself and Kerrel Wills look after the appointments of referees to games on a Saturday. I appoint each referee to their games, one month in advance. Kerrel has the full on, difficult job, of managing the changes to appointments each week, leading up to each Saturday.

Tom Brucciani deals with appointments of referees to any games that happen mid-week; this is an area of growth as more and more schools are taking up our game, along with 3 Universities and an increase in University Ladies rugby.

We welcome to the committee this year, Duncan Chandler, who will be looking after appointments to games on a Sunday; I wish him all the best in his new role.

It is a testimony to the hard work of all the appointment secretaries, that almost every game coming in to the Society is covered, each and every week.

Wayne Spencer, is our Exchange Secretary. Wayne liaises with other Referees Societies around the country, to exchange Saturday games. In this way we are able to send our referees out to other Societies, for differing experiences and to gain independent assessments. We send 3 referees out together on an exchange Saturday and they are valuable days as you travel together and can bounce ideas/experiences off each other.

One of the longest serving members of LSRUR is Noel Manchester and he is our Recruitment and retention Officer. Noel manages all the new recruits to the Society, accompanies them to a game to watch together and then for their first game in the middle. Due to Noels hard work, we have a steady flow of new referees joining our ranks.

Paul Macmillan is our Training Officer. He puts on midweek sessions throughout the season and takes the training input at our monthly meetings. Whatever your level, length of experience, this training is open to all.

Our Society Assessor Development Officer (affectionately known as the SADO !) is Geoff Blackburn. Geoff probably has one of the hardest jobs in the Society in organising, monitoring and training the referee Match Observers who watch and assess our referees, both within Society and on exchange. Due to Geoff's work, all incoming referees on exchange are watched and also every active referee in Leicestershire is watched at least once per season.

Peter Bower is our Grading Secretary and manages the grading of all our active referees. From the information provided by Geoff's match observers, the grade of all active referees is evaluated twice per season and altered according to performance. Pete manages this and keeps referees informed of their current grades.

Last, but not least, is our Promotions Secretary, Josh Burgess. The monthly newsletter is compiled and distributed by Josh and he also organises Society social events, such as the recent family fun day at Bosworth Water Park.

I wanted to mention each and every member of the committee, as the Society is in such a good position due to all their hard work and commitment.

I am proud to say that Leicestershire Referees carry with them, an excellent reputation and this is something we should all aspire to.

Remember that LSRUR is 'your' Society and exists for you to be able to pursue refereeing rugby, at whatever level. Our aim is to facilitate this, whether you are refereeing local 2nd & 3rd team rugby or climbing the refereeing ladder, through Midlands Group to RFU Panel and beyond.

Any feedback to us about your refereeing experiences is always welcome.

Greg Garner will be going through the Law amendments for this coming season at the meeting on the 22nd August at Vipers RFC, which will be a must listen for all active referees, as they apply as from now.

Nick and his team will be collecting your subs and you will receive your new handbook and Law book.

If you completed at least ten games last season, you will also be able to collect your new set of Society kit, which I have to say, is looking fantastic.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the best for the coming season and I look forward to working as your Chairman, to keep LSRUR in its excellent position and to maintain the tremendous reputation of all our referees.

Mark Elliott
Chairman
Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees.

Game Management, Part 2.

At the end of last season I wrote an article in this newsletter on Game Management. The areas that I felt this covered were, Contextual Judgement & Materiality, Control & Communication and Managing Critical Incidents. Over the next few issues we will explore these three areas in more detail. This month we will begin with Contextual Judgement & Materiality.

Managing a game for what it is can, at times, lead a referee to change their standards to meet the game. Contextual Judgement & Materiality are tools to use which allow a referee to maintain their standards whilst applying the laws of the game in a manner that suits the individuality of a game.

In a simplistic way of looking at them, Contextual Judgement & Materiality are empathy based solutions to the application (or not) of Law. So we can make allowances for lack of ability and / or endeavour but not at the expense of safety and fair play; which are the areas where I see some referees allow compromise. As I suggested in my previous piece allow players too much scope and you may regret it.

So the first question is what is Contextual Judgement? As suggested earlier it is judging the context of the game for example; players' ability, age group, player law knowledge, type of game (league, non-league, schools etc.), team (1st xv etc.), weather conditions, and pitch conditions. The list could go on. We can make allowances for all of the above within the management of the game.

An example may be poor pitch conditions in a 4th xv non-league game are causing stability issues in the scrum where we may be a little more happy to reset the scrum if it goes down; then if poor player ability adds to the issue we could speak to the front row players and get them to focus on the safety aspect, which could mean that we ask the more dominant prop or pack to hold back and equalise the contest for safety reasons.

However apply the above to a 1st xv league fixture and the context changes completely. This is where the referee has to use a different management strategy and inform both packs of the need to scrummage safely and ask for a better set up. Then warn the offending prop with the poor ability that he may have to be replaced if he can't manage to scrummage safely and if he can't he would either need to be shown a yellow card or replaced in order to maintain safety. So the context of the game has helped us shape and apply the laws to fit without the compromise of safety and fair play.

Materiality is a really useful management tool to keep a game flowing. As it suggests the nature of this process is; was the act material to the play / game. To explore this we can use the following example. During a 4th xv game the ball is kicked ahead, there is a hefty prop forward who has begun to advance up field, however the ball is some 50m away. Yes, in law he should not advance until he has been put on side, however is he going to have any effect on the play, does it matter? I would suggest not, so the offence can be managed by a word at the next breakdown instead of a penalty being awarded.

Using these two management tools effectively should allow a game to breathe and flow to its full potential. We all know the laws (hopefully) but we don't always need to blow the whistle to prove it! The main thing to remember is that, as already stated, we do not compromise safety or fair play.

Next time we will explore managing critical incidents, but as always if anyone would like to discuss this, or indeed any other area of refereeing, further please feel free to contact me.

Best wishes for the upcoming season.

Greg Garner

LSRUR Referee Development.

Sundays

The forthcoming season sees major changes to Junior rugby with the RFU introducing a 'structured calendar', which means that there are fewer Sundays available for County Cup matches (taking into account Bank Holidays, school half term and Christmas).

As a result, the LRU have had to increase the number of Cup matches on a Sunday by combining various age groups on the same day. Consequently, a larger number of referees will be required for the earlier rounds – with the main dates being 25th September and 6th November. Can I ask that you put these dates in your diary as approximately 12 referees will be required for these Cup games in addition to the normal requests for friendlies and Ladies games.

If the Society had been unable to accommodate these additional games, the LRU were considering cancelling the Plate fixtures which we felt as a Committee was unacceptable because, as a Society, we should be seen to support Junior rugby in Leicestershire.

I do appreciate that many of you have coaching and family commitments on a Sunday but would like to encourage as many referees as possible to consider Sundays – even if only once a month - as there will be four U17 teams, a couple of Colts teams (Ashby and Oakham) and the occasional public school game (Oakham, Uppingham) which can be of a higher standard, and intensity, than many games on a Saturday.

My contact details are duncanjchandler@aol.com or my mobile is 07896 202382.

Duncan Chandler

Sunday Appointment Secretary

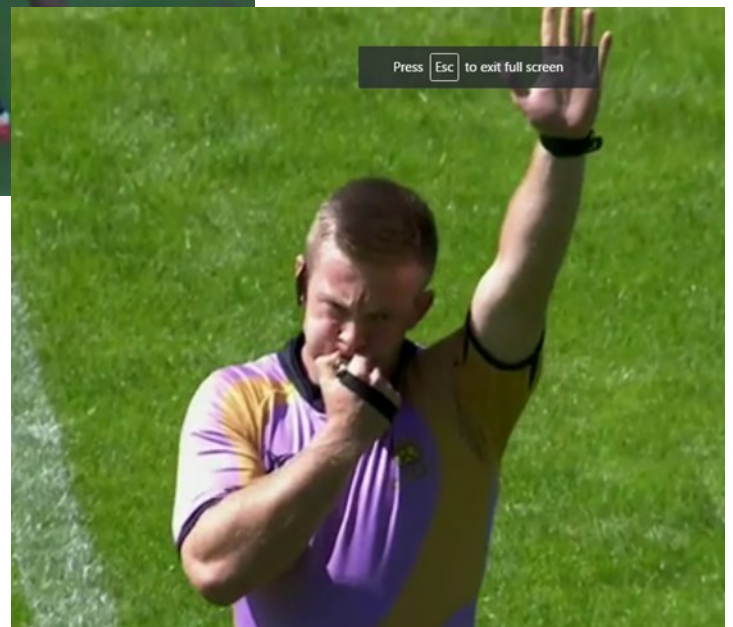
LSRUR

Premiership 7's finals day Sunday 7th August.

LSRUR were well represented at this year's Premiership 7's finals with Christophe Ridley and Greg Garner both in action at the men's competition at the Ricoh Arena whilst Josh Burgess and George Richardson both officiated in the Women's Competition at Broadstreet, Greg ran the line for both the Men's and the Women's final, which was also moved to the Ricoh.

Both Christophe and Greg have made great strides this season within the Professional Game Match Officials Team, which provides Match Officials to The Premiership and Championship along with Anglo – Welsh and B&I Cup games. Christophe became a full time referee at the start of August and Greg is now a full member of the PGMOT as an Assistant Referee. Both saw Championship and British and Irish Cup action last season and will no doubt be pushing to advance their respective careers. A third member of LSRUR is also still part of the PGMOT, the ever present Martin Fox is part of the coaching and performance review team.

George and Josh are both currently RWP's (Federation Referees, as we use to call them) eager to be included in the RFU Midlands Group set up this season along with Louis Massarella. The RFU at Group level appoint Match Officials to National 3 and The RFUW (Women's) Premiership.



SADO

Why not consider assessing?

If concerns about fitness or injury are bringing about the decision to stop refereeing, then why not consider becoming an Assessor/Advisor? It ensures continuing the close involvement in the sport and will be so helpful to the Society. For the more ambitious Members, it could also be a possible alternative route to achieving higher levels of rugby.

Please contact SADO (Geoff Blackburn) if you would like further information or to discuss the possibility.

Training

As ever, can I remind everyone that training is available for everyone to attend. There is an expectation that those referees on development will attend and will notify me if they can't but it always makes for a better training session the more people that attend- especially if they're new and have alternative views to express. It is similar with the fitness tests- those on development will be expected to take them while they are optional for anyone else.

The training programme up to December will be published very soon and like last season this will also be made available to clubs to try to encourage some club referees to attend. Training will be on different nights again so that people with regular commitments can at least attend some sessions.

At the first members meeting Greg Garner will be giving a presentation on the law changes for this season. For some reason this session is always very well attended.

There have been some changes to mini and junior rugby laws and regulations. Some leaflets detailing these will be available at the meeting. The major one to affect us will be that the Society will no longer referee U13 games because it is now 13-a-side and knockout tournaments will not start till U14.

This season also sees England Rugby introducing eleven new CPDs directed at referees. Some of these will be delivered on week evenings that can be booked through the RFU booking system. Details below are for the ones booked in up to December. I will also be delivering shortened versions of these in some of the Society training sessions:

Monday 10 Oct, Coalville RFC, 6.30-9.30pm 'Tackle'

Wednesday 7 Nov, Coalville RFC, 6.30-9.30pm 'Understanding the Game'

Booking is at <http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search/#/search>

