

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

February 2015

Welcome!

NEXT MEETING– TOMORROW -

MONDAY 23TH FEBRUARY
BELGRAVE RFC 7.30PM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

17th APRIL 2015– Annual Dinner

Could all members please print and display the annual dinner invitation,
in their respective clubhouses.

Kind Regards

Josh



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207 ...

days until RWC Kicks off

Grades as of January 2015

Name		Grade	Name		Grade
Nick	Bartlett	9	Thomas	Hurdley	8
Ray	Bates	9	Michael	Hutchins	8
Khalil	Bherani	9	John	Jameson	Pres
Mick	Birchall	8	Charlie	Jefferson	8
Jonathan	Bird	7	Mike	Jones	Pres
Paul	Blackler	11	Rob	Knapp	8
Peter	Bower	7	Jeffrey	Knight	Pres
Martin	Bromley	Pres	Nick	Lacey	Pres
Jeremy	Brooks	7	Mark	Leavesley	Pres
Wayne	Brooks	Prob	Paul	MacMillan	7
Tom	Brucciani	6	Ross	Martin	6
John	Budulis	Pres	Louis	Massarel-la	7D
Josh	Burgess	7DF	Barney	Matthews	9
Jenny	Burrows	7DF	Mellan	McNally-Reilly	Prob
Rupert	Burton	10	Andy	Miller	9
Roger	Cairns	Pres	Jaswinder Singh	Nagra	11
Rob	Carr	10	Ross	Neale	8D
Jonathan	Chadburn	12	George	Ord	10
Duncan	Chandler	9	Jim	Parsons	Prob
David	Clarkson	5G	Jack	Percival	Prob
Paul	Clayton	10	Jon	Petzing	RFU
Peter	Connor	Prob	Ian	Pollock	9
Elliott	Coombs	Prob	Robert	Price	10
David	Cox	8	Martin	Prince	10
Karl	Craig-West	10	Ben	Raynor	7
Rhys	Davies	RFU	George	Richard-son	8D
Anthony	Devenish	8	Charlie	Richard-son	9
Malcolm	Eames	Pres	John	Ryan	8
Mark	Elliott	Pres	Martin	Ryan	8
Keith	Fisher	9	Edwin	Silkstone	10
David	Flick	Pres	Mike	Sleight	10
Martin	Fox	RFU	Tom	Smith	8
Aidan	Friend	8	Nigel	Smith	10
Stephen	Gammage	RFU	Wayne	Spencer	RFU
Tony	Gardiner	7	Richard	Stainton	10
Greg	Garner	RFU	Alan	Steane	9
Guy	Gasper	Pres	Colin	Storey	9
Richard	Hadkiss	6F	Lance	Sullen	Pres
Rob	Haines	9	Joe	Symonds	Jnr
Myles	Halley	10	Paul	Tilley	8
Dulcie	Hardwick	8	Andrew	Torrens	10
Clifford	Hawkins	Pres	Lewis	Warren	Prob
Chris	Haywood	Prob	Ian	Whittle	10
Richard	Henson	9	Martin	Williams	7
Gavin	Hill	9	Dave	Williams	8
John	Hill	Pres	Kerrel	Wills	Pres
Simon	Hincks	8	Duncan	Wilson	Pres
Nick	Houghton	6	Julian	Wise	9
Mark	Hunt	Pres			

RFU NOTICE– Regarding League Structure from 2016/2017

Adult Competition Review – Update

An Implementation Group was set up to develop detailed plans covering all 21 recommendations of the Adult Competition Review. The membership of this group has been drawn from across the game and also includes RFU staff to provide professional support. It reports back to the Community Game Board at each of its meetings, and to RFU Council.

The Implementation Group is working to a strict timescale and following the previous update in November, this note is intended to ensure that you know what progress is being made, what will be happening and when.

Arrangements for putting the new league and cup structures in place, together with the necessary transition arrangements, are well advanced. To confirm, the changes to the league structure will be implemented at the start of season 2016-17, with all clubs being advised of the final details of the changes before the start of season 2015-16. This means that everyone will have a full season's notice and know the implications of promotion/relegation in all leagues.

More than ever rugby faces competition from other sports and leisure activities. A challenging and viable competition structure across the country is one key part of ensuring the future health of clubs and club rugby and in growing the male 15-a-side game.

The principles of the new competition structure arising from the extensive research and consultation, which took account of the views of club administrators, coaches, referees and, most importantly players, are:

- a varied diet of rugby;
- less travel for players to improve their quality of experience and to aid retention;
- reduced financial burden on clubs;
- time set aside in the season for rest and recovery, and
- a structure that works from the bottom up as well as from the top down.

The new structure is designed to benefit the whole game, providing opportunities not only for ambitious clubs, but also a variety in competition for all and the financial means to support it.

League Rugby – from 2016/17

League structures for Levels 3, 4 and 5 will be as previously announced. Work on structures for Level 6 and below is underway by the four DOCs to reflect regional and local needs.

In the current structure, clubs at Level 5 and below in 14 club leagues have 13 guaranteed home matches. In the new structure there will be a guaranteed minimum of 12 home matches with the potential for more, depending on progress in the cup competitions.

Cup Competitions – from 2016/17

Cup competitions will comprise cup, bowl and shield structures, as set out in the review. They will be based on pools that will provide certainty of fixtures for clubs up to the knockout stage, so they can be built into the club fixture list before the start of the season. These cup matches will provide the opportunity for a number of additional home fixtures.

There will be financial support for clubs taking part in the cup competitions, which will include travel costs and rewards for participation and success. Details of these will be published as soon as possible after the end of this season.

Level 5:

- Pools of 3 with teams from other leagues, so providing different opposition from the league programme.
- The pool cup fixtures will be in the club fixture list before the season starts.
- Pool winners go to Cup knockout stages, 2nd and 3rd to Bowl and Shield.
- Final of Cup at Twickenham.
- Bowl and Shield finals at major grounds, giving them a high profile.

Level 6 and below:

- Format and entry criteria determined by DOC – either the same as L5 to provide certainty of fixtures, or straight knockout.
- Final of Cup at Twickenham.
- Bowl and Shield finals at major grounds, giving them a high profile.

In addition to the financial support outlined above, there will be strong RFU marketing and practical support to help clubs make the most of the opportunities that the new cup competitions will offer.

Second and Lower XVs

One third of the recommendations from the Review were about second and lower XV competitions, where the bulk of rugby is played. Further meetings and consultations with league organisers are now taking place throughout the country to map the way ahead. This is a significant and detailed piece of work, and a separate update will be provided later this season.

We will continue to provide further updates over the coming weeks as the implementation progresses.

TRAINING

First of all can I advertise the following two RFU certified CPD courses that are free as they are funded by the LRU:

Wednesday 25 February, Vipers RFC, 6.30-9.30, Practical Refereeing. Aimed at Club and Society referees, this will cover positioning, the breakdown and communication. The practical part will focus on communication and positioning. This course would be ideal for any relatively new referees or indeed those wanting to recap on what are the fundamentals of refereeing- but also probably the most challenging aspects!

Monday 9 March, Coalville RFC, 7-9pm, Assistant Referee CPD. Again, aimed at Club and Society referees, this course covers the basics of running touch- positioning, signals, focus on relevant laws and the surprisingly tricky law concerning when the ball is out.

Sign up for both courses at;

www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses/search

If you have problems with signing up then please get in touch with me. Could you also spread the word to any club referees that you know. It's really important that our training extends to all referees in the county.

Some people may be wondering what the criteria is that we use for the appointing of coaches to referees and their inclusion on the development programme. There are no rules or processes written down but it usually happens on the recommendations of assessors. If they think a referee would benefit from a coach or has the potential to advance significantly they will say so in their assessments. Some referees also show commitment to training so they are also prime candidates for inclusion on the development programme or to have a coach. If this is something that interests you and you think you've been missed then please contact me.

As always, training is open to anyone and the schedule is on the LSRUR website. It would be great to see some new faces so that we can more views and opinions to debate and discuss.

Paul Macmillan

Training Officer

FEATURED REFEREE OF THE MONTH...



PAUL MACMILLAN

JB: What is your current level?

Paul: Level 7

JB: Why did you start refereeing?

Paul: Dropped down the teams as a player and wasn't enjoying the games. The ref didn't turn up one week, I refed and really enjoyed it.

JB: Best thing about refereeing?

Paul: You're 100% involved in the game from the moment you get in the car to the moment you leave the ground.

JB: ... and the worst?

Paul: Crowd abuse. Players and coaches are relatively easy to deal with but spectators present a different set of challenges.

JB: What do you do for a living?

Paul: English teacher at Dixie Grammar in Market Bosworth.

JB: Where would you most like to referee (country and/or stadium)?

Paul: I lived in Dubai for four years and played in the 7's each year. Refing there would be good too!

JB: Which referee do you admire most and why?

Paul: Nigel Owens for coming out as gay. As a great advert for our times, no one seems to care.

JB: If you could— which one law would you alter/amend and why?

Paul: Ball out of play in the air- make it out only if over the line.

JB: Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

Paul: I was signed on Schoolboy Forms with Leicester City as a teenager.

On My Travels

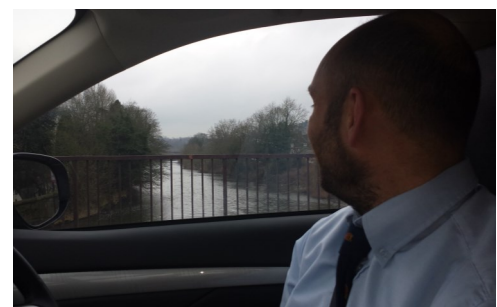
I have been very lucky that since the last newsletter I have had the pleasure of going on exchange to Buckinghamshire, Marlow RFC for myself, whilst Paul refereed High Wycombe. A beneficial experience, the opportunity to share our experiences of a different county's rugby, as well as pre and post match practices!



Mick Birchall and I also accompanied Louis Massarella as assistants on his exchange to Bridgnorth RFC, to referee their Intermediate Cup Midlands semi-final tie with Spartans RFC.

An interesting fact about Bridgnorth is that it has recently been revealed that had Germany conquered Great Britain, Herr Hitler would have made Bridgnorth his headquarters.

The match was very entertaining, with both Louis and the team of three receiving plaudits from the assessor. The home team were too strong for Spartans, benefiting from the return from injury of one 'Dave Hadkiss', running the show from fly-half.



PETZ' CORNER– The Art of Listening

A match saw a Team of 3 managing a game between two teams who will remain nameless for today, apart from the fact that one played in Blue and the other played in Yellow (yes I have also changed the colours so you cannot guess who they were). The Blue club were a few places below the Yellow club in their league, with Blue keen for the points in order to stave off any potential longer term league worries, but aware that Yellow had been on a recent run of good form.

The match kicked off, and within a few moments, Blue had conceded a technical penalty. 3 points to Yellow. Over the next ten minutes Blues conceded more penalties for technical offences and more points, before Yellow finally conceded a penalty. As the penalties (technical offences) accumulated throughout the half, yellow cards were issued. This resulted in a grumpy Ref at half time who was concerned as to why this was happening.

It was apparent that the problem was due to the fact that most of the Blues, had somehow (without telling their coaches or the crowd) collectively decided not to listen to the Referee for the first 40 minutes of the match. The Referee was communicating appropriately at the breakdown, open play and static phases, but the Blue players appeared not to be taking the advice on board.

At this point as a Referee you have a decision to make. What is your tolerance on repeated offences ? This may be contextual to the type of match, league, competition, age range, etc, and the Law book does not specifically identify a number of offences, before repeated becomes an issue. It requires consistency. No matter the answer, you eventually (or quickly) end up with an escalation of sanction, namely someone is heading for the Bin as (or in this case when) they transgress again.

This leaves you as the Referee in the unenviable position of having to administer the match management without any escape route or pressure relief, and with the coaches potentially assuming you are having a bad hair day (bit tricky on my part in this case). You are left hoping that common sense will prevail sometime in the 80 minutes, and someone in the team will get a grip of discipline and stop the rot. In the case of Blues, it was the luck of the half time whistle, and without doubt a very, very significant bollocking from the Coaches in the Changing Room, and no, we didn't listen at the door. The second half saw Blues concede very few penalties, score lots of tries and win the match.

So this is all about the Art of Listening. As a Referee you are always listening to the teams and the players, but you are also hoping (fervently at times) that the players and the teams will also listen to you and make everyone's life easier. If they do, sanctions tend to be minimized, the match flows, and everyone has a great afternoon. If they don't, then a tiresome and grumpy 80 minutes may be the only other option, even if every penalty and card is utterly correct. And yes it happens to everyone sometime, in my case 6 years ago in Wiltshire on exchange.

