



Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

January 2015



Welcome!

NEXT MEETING– TOMORROW -

MONDAY 26TH JANUARY
BELGRAVE RFC 7.30PM



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

17th APRIL 2015– Annual Dinner

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235 ...

days until RWC Kicks off
on the 18th September
2015!

Happy New Year to all members!

Kind Regards

Josh

FEATURED REFEREE OF THE MONTH...



JENNY BURROWS

JB: What is your current level?

Jenny: Level 7

JB: Why did you start refereeing?

Jenny: I loved the sport but lost the enjoyment of playing

JB: Best thing about refereeing?

Jenny: Get to stay involved in the best sport with out the injuries

JB: ... and the worst?

Jenny: The cold days when we still go out there

JB: What do you do for a living?

Jenny: I am a management accountant for Brakes Ltd

JB: What would your tour nickname be?

Jenny: Sick note or AWOL as I was always injured!

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

Jenny: Would have to be millennium stadium as it is the best atmosphere.

JB: Which referee do you admire most and why?

Jenny: Nigel Owens because he has a way with the players that just makes you laugh and respect him

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

Jenny: Never thought about it but as long as the game is played in the correct spirit and safely no one should complain

JB: Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

Jenny: I have a first class honours degree in mathematics

TRAINING

The training programme for the new year is on the LSRUR website. As always, can I remind members that it's open to anyone (including club referees) and is a great way to show that you're doing everything you can to improve as a referee and progress through the grades.

The date isn't confirmed yet as I'm still trying to sort a venue out, but in March we will be putting on an Assistant Referee CPD that will be recognised by the RFU- and provided free of charge courtesy of the LRU. Running touch is a way of seeing the game from another perspective and allows us to both improve our all round skills and help our refereeing. With the proposed new league structure in 2016-17 there will be a need for more RFU ARs so that may be an avenue that some people are interested in taking. There are also the many finals that we have in Leicestershire that require teams of three. Getting qualified will allow you to be considered for these opportunities.

On Wednesday 4 February there will be a scrum coaching event at Loughborough RFC aimed at junior coaches and players. The coaching sessions will be led by Community Rugby Coaches supported by Leicester Tigers players. We will also be using this as a training event so that we can gain an insight into how coaches are approaching the scrum. It would be really good if we could get a good turnout of referees to attend the event. Timings are 6-7.30pm (U13/14/15) and then 7.30-9pm (U16/17/18).

The training at this month's Society members' meeting will be on the scrum led by George Richardson and following on from Tom Brucciani's training last month, there will also be a short presentation on examples of ways to deal with back-chat from players.

Paul Macmillan

Rest in peace Jack Faulks

Sadly Jack Faulks passed away before Christmas. Several LSRUR members attended the funeral to pay their respects and were amused by the tribute written about him by his partner Di.

I first met Jack 50 years ago when I was sent from Teacher Training College to his school for my final Teaching Practice. At the end of the year we applied to the County, who then appointed us to a school.

I was first offered an Infant post near Leicester, but refused as I wanted to teach the junior age. I was told that there was a job at Belvoir Road, my Teaching Practice school, and asked if I would accept if the Headmaster was agreeable.

I wasn't too happy about going to teach in a school where the children knew me as a student, but I was afraid that I wouldn't be offered a third chance if I refused, so hoping the Headmaster wouldn't agree I said "Yes". He agreed to take me and I learnt more about teaching and dealing with children from him than anyone else.

However, for several years when we had visitors to the school and he was introducing me to them he would say

"This young lady came to my school as a student, and I gave her a good report to get her a job elsewhere, but I was made to 'eat my words' and have her back!"

In recent years he's said many times how pleased he was that he didn't refuse!

We worked together until his retirement and saw many changes. He fought hard to keep the school open when at one stage there were plans to amalgamate with All Saints, and when eventually the building of the new school was agreed, he said that, health permitting, he would stay on to see us into the new school as with 'nothing to lose' he could fight for things that a young, new head may be wary of doing.

In later years it wasn't always easy having a dual-relationship, but we survived by keeping the two separate. We didn't always agree on school matters, and on one occasion after a heated discussion I said that I was going to look for a job elsewhere. His reply was

"Let me know when you want me to write your reference!"

I went away thinking "Well, that didn't work quite as well as I'd hoped!" I should have known better as Jack could never be forced into doing anything against his will.

Fifteen years ago after a Hernia operation that had complications he came to stay with me to recover. Six months later, when he was well again, he said that he didn't want to go back to live by himself and asked if he could sell his house and move in with me when he was "too old and decrepit to look after himself, I agreed to the move and have never regretted it.

I have many wonderful memories of our years together. He taught me to sail and we had some lovely - and sometimes terrifying - holidays on the Norfolk broads and off the West Coast of Scotland. Later we took the car touring around Norway, France, Spain and Portugal as I'm afraid of flying.

Eventually we began cruising as it was the only way I would get further afield without flying. In 2002, after the 11th of September disaster in New York people were reluctant to fly to, or from New York, so Cunard put three fly-cruises together and made a round trip from Southampton to Cherbourg, then on to Quebec, Halifax-Nova Scotia, down the New England coast to New York and back to Southampton. It was the first time that Jack had been back to Quebec, where he did his flying training during the war, and the whole trip on the old QE2 was a wonderful experience which I will never forget.

When he became ill four years ago he never complained, and he retained his "fighting spirit" almost to the end.

When he had a hospital bed delivered I helped him into bed on the first night and half an hour later I heard him going downstairs on the stair lift. When I asked where he was going he said the bed was uncomfortable and he was going to sleep in his recliner chair. I told him that the doctors said he must sleep in the bed and he replied

"It's uncomfortable, so i'm not sleeping in it, and you can't make me! If you're not happy about it you can always find somewhere else to live!"

When I replied that wouldn't be doing that as it was my house, determined to have the last word he said

"Well I'll move then I"

Needless to say we called a truce and both stayed!

Last year when he lost the use of his legs after two bouts of pneumonia in two months, he moved into Ashby Court Nursing Home on the 6th of November.

I was afraid that he wouldn't see last Christmas, but with his usual fighting spirit and the wonderful care of all the nursing & care staff, and the excellent meals, he had a lovely 90th birthday this last February, and we've had a wonderful 'bonus year' together! Many thanks to everyone at Ashby Court. You've been wonderful to us both.

I apologise if this has gone on too long but Jack always proof read all my letters for school or business, and they usually came back covered in red pen and about a third of the length of the original

So sorry Jack you didn't get a chance to "Proof Read" this one!

GAME-KEEPER GOES POACHING

Josh Burgess

What do you do when your game goes down? (After re-apps have informed you all games are covered.)

Saturday 20th December, now into the Christmas Holidays I am back at home in Essex, my game through London Society has gone down and there are none to be had on reappointments, what was I to do? Watch a game on the TV? Watch my local club? Or respond to the call-to-arms from Tom, my twin brother.

Yes that's right, that day I made my debut for Norwich Medics 1sts in Eastern Counties 2. Playing in a scratch side— even scratchier than usual as per the nature of Medic's sides— I was preferred at 7 to Tom, a somewhat bizarre decision since I hadn't played regularly for two years!

Arriving at the meeting point at the Medicine Building at UEA, the mood in camp was grim, it was a top of the table clash, our opponents were Broadlands RFC, touted as possibly the roughest team you could never hope to come across. Horror stories were beginning to be exchanged, 'remember the time they spear tackled Phil?', or that time 'their 6 bit me', or my personal favourite- 'that game three seasons ago where one player arrived with his parole officer so his tag could be removed pre-match'. Needless to say a game I had been looking forward to was suddenly beginning to sound like a decision I would come to regret.

Kick off came and went, first play of the game I pounced over the ball carrier as he was chop tackled to the ground, shoulders above hips, low center of gravity, with a wide base, wrenching for the ball, I was waiting to hear the blast of the whistle, but it never came, instead, I felt the impending sense of doom that I was about to get my head shoved up my backside, and quite rightly I was smashed off the ball.

As I got to my feet I couldn't help but look at the referee and wonder what he had been looking at. However as a fellow referee I did not question his decision, and did indeed manage to get the deserved recognition and win a penalty, for the player not releasing, on my 3rd attempt. Thankfully I didn't miss too many tackles and stole 6 lineouts from the opposition as they overthrew it, but our collective efforts weren't enough and we lost 27-0

All in all it was a fun experience to play another match for a change, we lost considerably, but I can honestly say I saw more off the ball incidents and foul play in one match as a player, than I have seen all season as a referee. Having been stamped, punched and gouged in the first 15 minutes of the game, my eyes had been re-opened to what we potentially miss as referees, on the basis that we do not look for violent conduct. Aside from my festive black-eye, it reminded me that there is always, potentially something more than what appears to be going on at first glance. I will definitely be going into 2015 with a resolution to see more this year than I saw last year. I realise that in the last couple of seasons maybe I have been looking but not 'seeing'. I will reflect on this as the season progresses.



PNR (NATIONAL PANEL RECRUITMENT)

Rhys Davies

Have you considered becoming an assistant referee?

To be considered for AR1 you must be a level 6/7

To be considered for AR2 you must be a level 8

As you are aware in order to be considered for becoming an AR on the National Panel, the nominee must have a portfolio of games at level 5 with relevant report/coaching reports.

In order to assist those who wish to be considered for the panel we propose to try and appoint a "team of three" to selected level 5 games in February and March and have an AR coach present if possible.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please prepare a 'Rugby CV' containing relevant refereeing and ARing experience, and send this to Rhys Davies, before the 5th of February.