

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

March 2015

NEXT MEETING– TOMORROW -

MONDAY 30TH MARCH
BELGRAVE RFC 7.30PM

Dates for your diary-

Thursday 16th April– Fitness Test at Syston RFC

Friday 17th April– Annual Dinner

As another season draws to a close, and I believe there are only a few more weeks remaining, I feel that I should say once again a big thank you to all our members for the work and time they have spent contributing to Leicestershire rugby.

We have several milestones approaching, not least the Annual Dinner and the AGM, but we also have the grading meeting which will see some of you re-graded, according to the reports that we have received for you during this season.

If you should feel that you would like just one more assessment before the end of the season though, please contact Geoff Blackburn as soon as you can.

As an aside, we are already hearing that Group are showing an interest in several of our referees in terms of preparing them for progression, and I'm sure all of you will join with me in wishing them well in those appointments and in the hope that they do themselves credit when the time comes to perform.

Thanks. Enjoy what remains of the season, and I look forward to seeing you all at the dinner.

Rhys



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Referees with coaches/ mentors, it is your responsibility to chase your coach to submit reports to the Grading Committee.

172 ...

days until RWC Kicks off
on the 18th September



LSRUR Annual Dinner



You are cordially invited to apply for your place[s] at the

On Friday 17th April 2015

19:15 for 20:00

"The Honours and Legends Room"

Tigers Stadium, Welford Road

Our guest Speaker is **Graham Rowntree**, the former Tigers, England player and currently the England forwards coach – he will be supported on the night by Lancashire comedian **Lester Crabtree**



Tickets are £37.50 per head or £350 per table of 10 – Current Society Members £35
Dress code is lounge suits or blazers

Please reserve [] places at the LSRUR Annual Dinner on Friday 17th April 2015

Name:-

Club:-

Home address:-

Email address:-

Contact number:-

Return applications to :- John Haqqart, 64 Tennyson Road, Lutterworth, LE17 4XA or email

Applications or enquiries to jam.haggart@sky.com or 01455553167

PAUL MACMILLAN- Some Thoughts on Mini and Junior Rugby

(Should help our promotions officer out to fill the newsletter as he has his finals at the moment!)

As a referee we tend to not get involved with coaches/parents on the sidelines unless they are being abusive towards us personally. However we are in a privileged position to see and hear what their behaviour feels like to the children playing rugby. What sorts of things do we experience?

I'd say that about 80-90% of kids' coaches and spectators are on the whole pretty good during matches. I've coached children's rugby for about 10 years and have had bad experiences with opposition coaches/spectators on only a handful of occasions. However I think coaches and spectators need to realise the impact that their shouting and what they say has on the children playing rugby which is much more of a problem because the issues it causes are subtle and don't manifest themselves for several years.

The biggest thing I notice is players who are scared to make decisions on the pitch. Then when they make a bad one I see why- they are shouted at from the sidelines. Even when they make a good decision they've usually been instructed from an adult so they can't even take credit for that. And how many times have we seen an angry coach walking towards his team after a try has been scored to shout at his child players- sometimes picking someone out individually?

But should we get involved as referees? I cringe when I see it and feel a lot of sympathy for the players but I don't usually say anything- often just consoling myself with how lucky my players are and resolving not to do the same. Is it our responsibility to uphold the core values of rugby? I'd suggest it is. I don't think approaching the coaching staff would be a good idea as it may only inflame a situation. Perhaps a quiet word with a mini/junior committee member after the game might help?

Is it the referees' job to influence positive behaviour from coaches/spectators towards children? We certainly have a role to play but it ultimately lies more with clubs and the RFU coaching education staff.

And on another note. In my 10 years of coaching mini/junior rugby I have had only one game that was ruined by a referee and that was by a society ref (not Leics) who blew his whistle at every breakdown. I think this is remarkable when you consider that the refs are usually coaches, new refs starting their journeys or Saturday players persuaded to give it a go for the sake of a free Sunday lunchtime beer. I estimate I've seen 300 mini/junior games and on only one occasion has the ref ruined the children's enjoyment. I think that's a pretty good ratio to end on!

FEATURED REFEREE OF THE MONTH...



ROB KNAPP

JB: What is your current level?

Rob: Level 8

JB: Why did you start refereeing?

Rob: Broken player, hip and shoulder. Couldn't scrummage anymore and playing in the backs is against my religion. Also didn't want to waste my Saturday afternoon pass out.

JB: Best thing about refereeing?

Rob: Travelling to new clubs and meeting new people.

JB: ... and the worst?

Rob: Driving when free beer is offered.

JB: What do you do for a living?

Rob: Run my business; Knappsterlandscapes

JB: What would your tour nickname be?

Rob: What goes on tour stays on tour so couldn't possibly say!

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

Rob: Stade Rochlais, La Rochelle, France

JB: Which referee do you admire most and why?

Rob: Nigel Owens, "Christopher!" Eng v Sco was a moment of genius.

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

Rob: Bring back proper rucking and let's see how many players can't roll away at the ruck.

JB: If you were going on tour with the society and had to room with another referee, who would you choose and why?

Rob: Josh Burgess, he'll do anything for a good game from the fixture secretary's.

JB: Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

Rob: I speak fluent French and used to be an interpreter for a division of Toyota.

TRAINING

Last month has seen us deliver an Assistant Referee CPD (the only one in the country!) led by Greg Garner; put out a team of three officials for an U17 county game and we've had an indoor session on the breakdown. An adapted form of the latter will be this month's members' meeting training.

Next month we have a training game on Wednesday 1 April at Jimmies, 7.30ko; the LRU Finals are at Welford Road on Tue 7 April (curry afterwards) then the fitness test will be on Thursday 16 April at Syston RFC. It will start at 7pm but we will then join in with the social touch rugby session that they have there so there is no excuse for not attending!

Paul

Training Officer

CONGRATULATIONS



At last month's member's meeting Elliott Coombes was presented with his kit for completing his ten games for the society, here is to the next ten!

This month Khalil Bheriani is due to be presented with his kit.

PETZ' CORNER– **The Scrum – A Different Perspective**

Crouch – Bind – Set. And as a referee you will be looking for a stationary set of players at each stage of the engagement sequence. Your position will most typically be at the tunnel, with the attacking scrum half either to your side, or behind you, ready to put the ball in. Your perspective is typically on top of the scrum, looking at the shoulders and body positions from that angle, with some attention to bindings. You try to watch the side of the scrum as well, but there are lots of things to look at.

However, from the side, as an Assistant Referee you have a different set of view points, and ironically an opportunity to learn a lot more about scrummaging. The AR viewpoint is a lot more two dimensional unless the scrum is within 5m of your touchline. In reality you are looking at the side of the scrum, the body shape of the TH and LH props from the opposing sides, the shape of the back row, and the No.8 pre-binding and engagement.

Props body positions suddenly become very obvious – good shape versus bad shape, back bowed out and weak, or bowed in and strong, feet in front or behind hips leading to issues of stability. Feet genuinely slipping in the mud, or perhaps not. Head positions and shoulder shape – pushing straight or pushing in. Other things you clearly see are the scrum halves feeding the ball even though the lawmakers determined that straight ball input was the way forward, and hookers leaving their feet in before the ball arrives.

Bindings long or short, high or low. And the shirts don't help, so Prop binding may be intentionally legal, but due to skin tight shirts, the only options to maintain a hold and stability may be initially illegal, but then you discover two types of player. Those that will opt to reinforce an unstable illegal bind and pull the scrum down, and those who will maintain a stable (if illegal) bind and allow fair scrummaging to happen.

As a Referee, you will see one version of events, and perhaps only get a brief glimpse of many of these issues described above because your positioning is dynamic as a function of the ball going in, players being dynamic and moving, as well as the scrum shifting along (or around). As the two ARs you bring the alternative perspectives to the team, and aid comprehension about what the scrum and the players may be really trying to achieve.

Yet ironically as an AR (and just like the Ref) you will still miss things, because your attention is drawn to one aspect of the setup in real-time, whilst other elements are dynamic. However, in the end it is about credible decisions, that reward a legal dominant scrum, and penalize an illegal dominant or diminutive scrum.

Caption Competitions!

All appropriate suggestions will be published in the next newsletter!



Caption Competition #2 (Leicester Women's Varsity match at Welford Road 18th March 2015)

