

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

November & December 2015

NEXT MEETING– 30 NOVEMBER 2015 @

VIPERS RFC 7.30PM

Points to note-

- 1) Any referee with a coach or a mentor, it is YOUR responsibility to make sure that your coach/mentor submits a report to the Grading Committee PRIOR to the Grading Meeting on the 14th December.
- 2) Referees officiating matches in the Midlands Leagues, please refresh your memories of the league regulations, which are on the website:
<http://www.lsrur.co.uk/images/Midlands-Division-Administrative-Instructions-2015-16.pdf>
- 3) We have a new batch of refereeing shirts in stock, in all sizes, YES— ALL SIZES!! From 32” to 52”
- 4) Congratulations to Dave Henderson who receives his kit for completing his 10 games at the members meeting this month.
- 5) Your refereeing subs have been due since the start of the season. There are several referees who have not paid these who need to pay these before Christmas or will face the consequences!
- 6) All referees that are refereeing 1st XV rugby in the county are EXPECTED to attend monthly members meetings, the turn out of late has been increasingly poor from referees of levels 6-9.

On behalf of the whole committee, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!



Featured referees of the month...



PAUL TILLEY

JB: What is your current level?

Paul: Level 8

JB: Why did you start refereeing?

Paul: My first game as a ref was in the September 2011. I was coaching mini rugby and got dragged in but willingly and really enjoyed it.

JB: Best thing about refereeing?

Paul: Refereeing allows me to stay active in the wonderful sport that is rugby union.

JB: ... and the worst?

Paul: Being injured is the worst part of refereeing - very frustrating and it means I may have to go shopping on a Saturday afternoon!!

JB: What do you do for a living?

Paul: I'm CEO at Earl Shilton Building Society - I'm an ethical banker.....so I've been told!!

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

Paul: Having been to Stade Mayol, Toulon, France to watch Tigers in a European Cup fixture (for Mrs T's birthday...fortunately she's a big rugby fan) the atmosphere was awesome for a relatively small stadium so to ref there would be a dream come true.

JB: Which referee do you admire most and why?

Paul: Nigel Owens has the capacity to manage people in a constructive and empathetic manner - a sign for me of a great ref. His ability to be decisive in a complex environment with ARs and a TMO plus skippers all having an input is to be applauded. You didn't really notice him in the RWC final - a key objective for me in a good ref.

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

Paul: The maul can be rewarding to the defensive team playing negatively with bodies everywhere not moving. So for an unsuccessful end to a maul I would change the law so a scrum to the team in possession is awarded, although this in itself could create too many mauls which is not a great spectacle but better than what we have now in my opinion. I'm sure there must be some clever people out there that can make the maul more constructive.

JB: Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

Paul: I undertake voluntary work as a Magistrate in Leicester.....I've seen a few players in court over the years!!



SIMON HINCKS

JB: What is your current level?

Simon: Level 7

JB: Why did you start refereeing?

Simon: Progression from mini's coach to ref when doing the under 9's and then when returning to play rugby fortnightly as a 46 year old VET I had nothing to do on the non-playing weekend so I joined the society.

JB: Best thing about refereeing?

Simon: Walking through the tunnel of players having had a great game facilitating the enjoyment of all 30 players.

JB: ... and the worst?

Simon: Walking through the tunnel of players having had a mare of a game with 15 players thinking I'm a ****

JB: What do you do for a living?

Simon: Rugby Development Officer for Staffordshire.

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

Simon: Welford Road

JB: Which referee do you admire most and why?

Simon: Not the expected here! Geoff Gay - My school rugby master & maths teacher back in the 70's. He reffed me as VET 3 years ago and has since reffed my Son in school fixtures, this guy has got unbelievable passion for the game.

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

Simon: Law 13 - Kick offs and restarts, simply replace the option for a Scrum with a free kick, we already have too many scrums and this would further speed the game up, taking something from the 7's game.

JB: Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

Simon: I've coached a team playing at Twickenham, I have reffed a game at Twickenham and I've played a full 15 a side game at Twickenham.

The MO Column – Match Observing In Practice (1)

Match Observers quite often get asked ‘what is involved with the role of match observing?’ and some people wonder whether they are capable of doing it. Quite often, the only experience of match observing for a referee or Society member is being on the receiving end and reading their own report; or if you are on the Grading Committee reading reports on other referees. This article is one of a number that will hopefully demystify a few questions and concerns. At the same time, it is hoped they will stimulate some interest and a willingness to give it a try.

There are different levels of refereeing. What levels of Match Observing are there? What is involved at each level?

For this article I will look at the role of the Society Observer/Adviser.

The first level of observing, **and the most important**, is that of Society Observer. It is the most important, because it is usually a referee’s first experience of being observed and having comments made on their refereeing. A bad experience at this stage could put a referee off refereeing and potentially prevent them from refereeing the World Cup Final!! At all levels the purpose behind observing is – 1) Record what was seen on the day. 2) Provide pointers for development and 3) Ensure that an experienced referee is maintaining the standards that got them to the level they are at – acts as a safeguard for the referee, Society and the players to ensure that appointments are appropriate. At Society level, when observing a relative newcomer, the most important purpose behind, and outcome of, an observation is to bolster confidence so that the referee wants to continue turning up.

Even within the role of Society Observer there are two levels. There is observing of beginners and those operating at the lower levels; and then there is observing development and exchange referees. Approximately this relates to levels 8-12 and 6-8 respectively, with some degree of overlap. For those interested in observing within the Society, there are copies of the various forms used on the Society website under the Essential Documents tab. For those wanting to start doing observing for the first time, Geoff Blackburn has produced a very simplified tick sheet which covers most of the important areas of a refereeing performance. Once you feel a little more confident, you may feel you could offer more advice and write down a few notes as well to help a referee to develop, then LSRUR Form 1 can be used. For an observation of a development or exchange referee it is expected that an RFU Form 2 (again on the website) will be used, which provides a bit more detail about management, referee strengths and areas for development. If you would like to see some completed reports, Geoff will be more than happy to provide you with some anonymous examples.

The modern Match Observer?

For those that are tech savvy and want to do very little writing, there is a MO App available and information about this is available on the society website. The App can produce different levels of report depending on the purpose behind the observation and the level.

Over the next few months I will look at the higher levels of observing and try to answer any ques-

The MO Column – Match Observing In Practice

Over the next few months, I will look at the higher levels of observing and try to answer any questions that members may have. Please send questions to either (or both)

Geoff – refassess@btinternet.com, Mike – michael.r.jones@ntlworld.com

Question - Do you have to have refereed at a high level to be a good match observer?

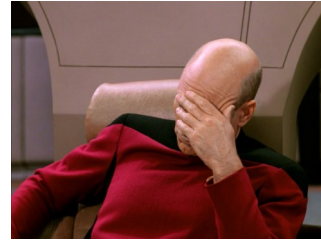
No. Otherwise there wouldn't be many Observers! The most important attributes are an understanding of the game and an empathy with the difficulties that a referee may be experiencing on the pitch. It helps if you can talk quite easily to people. As with refereeing you will get better at it as you become more experienced.

Mike Jones



Wrong Shoes - Game Cancelled!

By Peter Bower



Or - Spend £30m on synthetic G4 surface and still cant play!

My game on Saturday was Ashbourne V Veseyans - National Cup Match.

11.00 oclock phone call - pitch not playable at Ashbourne - game moved to Derby University - new G4 state of the art pitch.

No problem.

11.45 another phone call from Ashbourne secretary - a little problem, you cannot use Aluminium studs on the Derby G4 surface - mouldeds only.

Not a problem to me, fortunately Ive only just left home so can go back.

Not so easy for Veseyans who are half way there! No moulded boots with them.

Can I referee the game in the West Midlands instead at Veseyans? Yes - no problem.

12.15 - another phone call from Ashbourne - sorry ref, cant get all our players to go away - game cancelled.

Over the years Ive marked a snow covered pitch out with my boot to get the game on, kicked frozen mole hills level, and called a flooded part of a pitch out of bounds,

I've had some strange reasons for cancellation, but wrong boots is a new one for me!!