



Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

October 2015

NEXT MEETING– 30 NOVEMBER 2015 @

VIPERS RFC 7.30PM

For an interesting article, albeit controversial, check out the below link from the Telegraph:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/rugbyunion/rugby-world-cup/11940343/Rugby-World-Cup-2015-referees-ranked-and-rated-is-Craig-Joubert-the-worst.html>

Or to de-mystify the sustained success of the All Blacks, check out

<http://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2015/sep/11/all-blacks-how-new-zealand-sustains-its-rugby-dynasty>



FEATURED REFEREE OF THE MONTH...



PETER CONNOR

JB: What is your current level?

Peter: Level 8

JB: Why did you start refereeing?

Peter: I ached until Wednesday after playing rugby on a Saturday and started to pick up a few injuries that meant I wasn't able to play the way I used to when I was a bit younger. I had refereed school games quite regularly and wanted to stay involved in the game without the same feeling of pain afterwards!

JB: Best thing about refereeing?

Peter: The best thing about refereeing is the excellent view you get of the action on the pitch.

JB: ... and the worst?

Peter: The worst thing about refereeing is that every other person on the pitch has got someone to stick up for them!

JB: What do you do for a living?

Peter: I'm Head of PE at De Lisle College in Loughborough - it is the best job in the world and a great place to trial anything to do with refereeing before taking charge of your game at the weekend.

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

Peter: I would love to referee at Welford Road in front of a full house - a knowledgeable crowd and a great atmosphere. It's also nice and close so I'd be back home at a reasonable time!

JB: Which referee do you admire most and why?

Peter: I admire and have a lot of time for Nigel Owens. He has a calm and purposeful manner on the field, doesn't take any nonsense from the players, is human and isn't afraid to manage the players on his terms ("...Christopher!")

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

Peter: I would like to see the age group law variations that were introduced at U12, U13 and U14 change to reflect the full-sided game again. Not contesting at scrums and lineouts seems more like rugby league than rugby union!

JB: Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

Peter: An interesting fact about me is that I once got an Indian international cricketer out LBW in a cricket match! He wasn't happy.

LSRUR in the news, (well alright... the Tigers programme!)

On Sunday 25 October 2015, George Richardson and I were privileged enough to assist Ross Neale in the first ever Women's Premiership match to be played at Welford Road!

What a cracking match! A very solid performance from Ross and George too.



TODAY'S TEAMS

LICHFIELD LADIES

		T	C	P
15	SARAH NICHOLAS			
14	JAS COYNE			
13	HOLLY AITCHESON			
12	HANNAH SMITH			
11	CARYS WILLIAMS			
10	TASH JONES (C)			
9	JESS ROBINSON			
8	ROS CROWLEY			
7	AMY COKAYNE (ENG)			
6	JUSTINE LUCAS (ENG)			
5	STACEY HISCOX			
4	MOLLY MORRISSEY			
3	KATIE TREVARTHEN			
2	BECKY HOON			
1	HARRIET MILLS (ENG)			

REPLACEMENTS

16	MARYN ROBERTSON			
17	CAT PUGH			
18	KAT ROBINSON			
19	LAURA HIND			
20	LUCY NYE			
21	HANNAH PHILLIP			
22	CARYS HALL			

WASPS LADIES

		T	C	P
15	SHARON EDWARDS			
14	BECCA BROWN			
13	PERIOLA BALL			
12	SARAH MITCHELLSON			
11	HANNAH JONES			
10	TESS GARDNER			
9	TRIA LEE (ENG)			
8	SARAH SAMMON			
7	SARAH MANNING (WEL)			
6	CLAIRE PUNNETT (ENG)			
5	LOUISE ALLEN			
4	ALEX POWELL			
3	NICOLA SMITH			
2	ALICE SHEPHERD			
1	LAURA GERRIN			

REPLACEMENTS

16	HELEN COFFEY			
17	ALEX BARRON			
18	KATIE ALLEN			
19	RONA MITCHELL			
20	NACHEL PARRY			
21				
22				

WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP TABLE

POS	TEAM	P	W	L	D
1	Richmond Women	6	5	1	0
2	Saracens Women	6	5	1	0
3	Bristol Ladies	6	5	1	0
4	Worcester Ladies	6	3	3	0
5	Lichfield Ladies	6	2	4	0
6	DMP Sharks	6	1	5	0
7	Wasps Ladies	6	2	4	0
8	Aylesford Bulls Ladies	6	0	6	0

77

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

MR ROSS NEALE

ASSISTANTS:

MR JOSH BURGESS &

MR GEORGE RICHARDSON

Referee Grades
April 2015



Name		Grade		Innactive	Dec Change	Apr Change	
Nick	Bartlett	9		-	*		
Ray	Bates	9		-			
Khalil	Bherani	8		-	*	8	
Mick	Birchall	Pres		-		Pres	
Jonathan	Bird	7		Y			
Peter	Bower	7		-			
Martin	Bromley	Pres		-			
Jeremy	Brooks	7		-			
Tom	Brucciani	6		-			
Josh	Burgess	7DF	M. Mortimer ©	-	*		
Jenny	Burrows	7D	Mark Elliott ©	-			
Rupert	Burton	10		-			
Roger	Cairns	Pres		-			
John	Carr	10		-			
Jonathan	Chadburn	12		-			
Duncan	Chandler	9	Dave Edkins (M)	-			
David	Clarkson	5G		-			
Paul	Clayton	10		-			
Peter	Connor	8D	M. Mortimer ©	-		8D	
Elliott	Coombs	12	Tony Gardiner(M)	-		12	
David	Cox	8		-			
Karl	Craig-West	10		-			
Rhys	Davies	RFU		-			
Anthony	Devenish	8		-	*		
Malcolm	Eames	Pres		-			
Mark	Elliott	Pres		-			
Keith	Fisher	9		-			
David	Flick	Pres		-			
Anthony	Forsyth	10		-			
Martin	Fox	RFU		-			
Aidan	Friend	8		-			
Stephen	Gammage	RFU		-			
Tony	Gardiner	7		-			
Greg	Garner	RFU		-			
Guy	Gasper	Pres		-			
Richard	Hadkiss	6		-			
Rob	Haines	9		-	*		
Myles	Halley	10		-			
Dulcie	Hardwick	8		-			
Peter	Harris	12		-		12	
Clifford	Hawkins	Pres		-			
Will	Hayter	12		-		12	
Chris	Haywood	10		-		10	
David	Henderson	12		-		12	
Richard	Henson	8	T.Brucciani (M)	-		8	
Gavin	Hill	9		-			
Jason	Hill	Prob		-			
John	Hill	Pres		-			
Simon	Hincks	7	Peter Bower (M)	-		7	
Nick	Houghton	6		-			
Mark	Hunt	Pres		-			

Referee Grades
April 2015

13

Name		Grade		Innactive	Dec Change	Apr Change	
Thomas	Hurdley	8		-			
John	Jameson	Pres		-			
Charlie	Jefferson	8		-			
Mike	Jones	Pres		-			
Rob	Knapp	8		-			
Jeffrey	Knight	Pres		-			
Nick	Lacey	Pres		-			
Mark	Leavesley	Pres		-			
Paul	MacMillan	7		-			
Ross	Martin	6		Y			
Louis	Massarella	6DF	Greg Garner ©	-		6F	
Barney	Matthews	9	Dave Edkins (M)	-		9	
Andy	Miller	9		-			
Jaswinder Singh	Nagra	11		-			
Ross	Neale	7DF	Mark Elliott ©	-	*dc	7F	
Jim	Parsons	12		-		12	
Jon	Petzing	RFU		-			
Ian	Pollock	9		-			
Martin	Prince	10		-			
Ben	Raynor	7		-			
George	Richardson	7DF	Greg Garner ©	-	*d	7F	
John	Ryan	8		-			
Edwin	Silkstone	10		-			
Mike	Sleight	10		-			
Nigel	Smith	10	Kerrel Wills (M)	-	*m		
Wayne	Spencer	RFU		-			
Richard	Stainton	10		-			
Alan	Steane	9		-			
Colin	Storey	9		-			
Joe	Symonds	Jnr		-			
Paul	Tilley	8	N.Houghton (M)	-	*		
Andrew	Torrens	10		Y			
Kieran	Walters	10	N.Houghton (M)	-		10	
Lewis	Warren	Prob		-			
Martin	Williams	7		-			
Dave	Williams	8		-			
Kerrel	Wills	Pres		-			
Duncan	Wilson	Pres		-			
Julian	Wise	9		-			
				-			

M = Mentor

C = Coach

The MO Column – Part 1

Why become a Match Observer?

People come into Match Observing for all sorts of reasons and benefits. The list is endless but some are listed below.

- 1.) It gives you a lot of pleasure being able to help people improve.
- 2.) It feels nice when someone says thanks for helping them.
- 3.) Keeps you involved in the game.
- 4.) Gets you out of the house.
- 5.) It improves your own refereeing by observing some good and bad practice which allows you to assess yourself and implement changes for your own improvement, which in turn leads to better enjoyment of your own refereeing.
- 6.) It gives you an opportunity to watch matches at a higher level than those you refereed yourself. (But not always more enjoyable!)

Despite what some referees think I have not come across anyone (yet!) that does it for the sense of power or being on an ego trip thinking that MOs are better than the referees. If I'm quite honest most do it because they weren't good enough to go to the higher levels through refereeing. Due in part from starting refereeing too late or not being fit enough either through build or injury, as well as ability.

Why become a Match Observer in Leicestershire?

Quite simply it's because the advice and guidance you get is second to none. Last season we had four National Panel Match Observers in the society; about 25% of the total in the country. This doesn't happen by chance. In my case I benefitted from having Geoff Blackburn as my initial trainer/mentor. Through experience I can tell you that you will not get a better start to your MO career than being guided by Geoff. He sets a high standard for those that want to progress to the higher levels but at the same time makes it really easy for anyone to dip their toe into advising/observing locally or even in the Midlands. We are also lucky enough to have John Haggart whose advice and experience from the very highest levels of the game has been invaluable. Both Geoff and John are very approachable and freely giving of their time if you want some advice or want to ask some questions about observing.

My advice? Give it a try. There's nothing to lose. If you like it then you can go as far as you want with a little bit of effort. If you don't like it then you've lost nothing and have the thanks of a number of your colleagues for your time and help.

The MO Column – Part 1

Me? I came into observing because even though I had been a club based and school referee through my job for nearly thirty years I was a late joiner to the society at nearly fifty. It was made fairly clear to me that no matter how fast, fit and knowledgeable I was I was not going to be promoted to the higher ranks because of age. When I joined the society I was obviously started off at the lowest level and found myself actually refereeing lower level game then when I was just refereeing games at my club. After a couple of seasons I was reading the society newsletter in which Geoff was writing about getting onto the Panel at the age of 60 and extolling the virtues of being was called an 'assessor' in those days and asking members to consider this role. I did and before long I was standing on a touchline with Geoff and taking a few notes.

What held me back a little was the fact that I continued to referee regularly and observe locally for three seasons and this limited the amount of experience I could gain from only observing. Once I retired from refereeing regularly I was quickly promoted to the Midlands Division and after two years I was recommended by the Division for elevation to the Panel. I wish I had given more priority to the observing from the outset because even though I spend a lot of rugby time observing I could if I wanted to still ref the occasional game so I would have the best of both worlds.

If I get time I'll give members an outline of what is involved in the different levels of observing in a future newsletter. If you feel you would like to learn a bit more about match observing or simply have some questions then get in touch with Geoff or myself. You won't be committing yourself to anything; just acquiring more knowledge.

Mike Jones



THE CRAIG JOUBERT INCIDENT

AUSTRALIA 35pts to SCOTLAND'S 34pts Sunday 18th Oct 2015

Up until his last minute decision and the possible harsh yellow carding for what he saw as a deliberate knock-on by Scotland, I believe that this match had been refereed very well by Joubert. However the match will always be remembered with the what-if question: what if the decision had been a scrum? Scotland to beat New Zealand in the final?

Aspiring Referees should learn from this. Although all referees strive to get every decision correct there are two times when it becomes even more important **not to get it wrong.**

The first of these situations is created as the ball gets within 5 or 10mtrs of a goal line, (often referred to as "the red zone"). The intensity of the play is substantially increased in this area and the referee must act accordingly. He must be "on his toes", anticipate the next player move and react quickly. In an ideal situation he would get into in-goal at the same time, if not before the ball and be in-goal looking out to see the ball grounded. The players are unforgiving if a score is missed or wrongly awarded. If the grounding of the ball was not seen and not obvious, don't allow play to develop – Blow the whistle and award a 5mtr scrum to the attacking side. Everyone will be happy!

The second time that it is very important not to get the decision wrong is less common, but it will happen to you from time to time. I refer to the last few minutes of a match where the team's scores are within 3 points of each other. This happened to Joubert and he got it wrong. One can forgive him for not spotting the Australian hand that played the Scot on side, as it took most people three views of the playback to see it, but he still did not have to make the penalty decision. Earlier in the same match a similar situation arose and he awarded a scrum down accidentally offside. This action was all at close quarters and the same decision would have been acceptable to both sides in my opinion. Having said that I still cannot understand why he did not involve the video ref for such an important decision, despite what the rules say.

Shame that it happened, but nothing justifies the way that he was hung out to dry by the people in authority or the comments that are being made by senior international players.

Mike MORTIMER

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

Season 2015/2016

Referee - Club Protocol

The purpose of this document is to set out the protocol that the Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees (LSRUR) expects clubs and their coaches to follow for the season 2015/2016. Referee abuse is becoming a major problem in the game of rugby, particularly at the mini/midi and junior level; there is also an increase in the level of abuse from coaches, club officials and spectators.

Clubs should be aware that the LSRUR, conscious of its duty of care to its members, is now asking match officials to highlight issues of abuse they experience at all LRU affiliated clubs, be it from players, coaches, club official or spectators.

Referees, the same as players, do make mistakes in the game. The numbers of incidents where referees have had to abandon matches due to poor player discipline and/or abuse, or coach/club official/spectator abuse are also increasing. Clubs should be aware that the RFU recommended sanction for an abandoned game is a 25-point deduction, and this means that a league club 2nd team incident could affect the league position of the first team.

The following are guidelines and what the LSRUR and the LRU should expect from each of the categories listed:

Society Referees

* For League and Cup matches, Referees should, where possible, arrive at the ground no later than 60 minutes prior to kick off. This is to ensure that all the safety checks required can be done in time. They should, on arrival, make contact with the captains, coaches and the home club official to enable these checks to be carried out in good time prior to kick off. For all other matches referees should where possible, arrive at the ground no later than 30 minutes prior to the kick-off.

* Referees will referee the game according to the laws of the game and will expect the Players and Coaches of the teams involved to have an understanding of the laws of the game

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

Society Referees continued.

- * Referees will engage with the team captains or coaches and mutually agree a suitable time in which the referee can carry out his pre-match brief and stud check. At the pre-match brief the Referee will check the studs of all players, including replacements and go through the scrum engagement sequence with the respective front rows
- * Referees will insist that all replacements from both teams are on the same side of the playing. Replacements will only be allowed to come on from the halfway line with the permission of the referee
- * Referees will brief the touch judges on what they expect from them (touch and kicks at goal)
- * Referees will be available to coaches up to 15 minutes prior to kick off for questions on the game but it is up to each individual referee as to whether he/she wishes to answer any of them
- * Referees may, if they wish, speak to the Captains of each side at half time as part of their game management strategy
- * Referees will not be available to Coaches or Club Officials until 30mins after the end of the game including half time.

Coaches

- * Coaches should not approach the referee from a period of 15 minutes prior to the start of the game until 30 minutes after the end of the game, though they may during the game indicate to the referee that they want to make a replacement
- * Any dialogue with the referee during the game should be made via the captain. In mini/midi and junior matches (under 14 and below) where this is not applicable then the coach may be allowed, at the discretion of the referee, to discuss playing matters at half time
- * Coaches should restrict themselves to the technical area. If there is no Technical Area, then to a point between the halfway line and the 10-metre line
- * Coaches should at all times be well beyond the touchline and should not walk or run up and down the touchline.
- * Coaches who stand behind the posts may do so provided they are well outside the playing area and where a barrier is provided behind that barrier
- * Coaches should be encouraged to give positive playing instructions to their own players but should not shout at the referee. Continual shouting at the referee could be considered as abuse or harassment and, as such, could be reported to the appropriate disciplinary authority

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

- * Referees appreciate the time and effort put into the game by the coaches and they will of course not always see decisions the same way. Referees are encouraged to speak to coaches, and there is no reason why a discussion cannot take place in the clubhouse, no less than 30 minutes after the end of the game
- * Coaches can also contact a LSRUR committee member to discuss a referee's performance. If a match observer is in attendance, he may also be approached.

Clubs

- * Clubs should provide a barrier between the playing enclosure and spectators for the safety of both the players and the spectators. This will also restrict access to the playing enclosure. This is a league requirement for all league matches
- * Where this is not possible the Club must ensure that spectators or parents are aware that they must not come onto the playing enclosure
- * Clubs at level 5, 6 and 7 must ensure that a Technical Area is clearly marked on the side of the pitch
- * Spectator behaviour is the responsibility of the club, and clubs are reminded that it is they who will be sanctioned in the event of referee abuse
- * Clubs should have a process by which they can deal with members who regularly have behaviour problems with match officials or who verbally abuse referees.
- * Clubs should bear in mind that some referees are under 17 years of age and that verbal abuse is treated very seriously by the RFU, LRU and the Referees Society
- * Clubs should be aware the Referees Society will actively back and support club referees who are subject to abuse/ behaviour problems when refereeing games

Match Notification and Fees 2015/2016

Fixture Generation.

- * All known club fixtures, including league, friendly, mid-week and Sunday fixtures, must be sent to the Society by no later than the 31st July. Failure to send such lists may result in the Society not appointing a referee to that Club or School until such time as the Fixtures are sent to the Society. Fixtures can be sent to any of the Appointment/ re-appointment Secretaries at their email addresses (appoint@lsrur.co.uk; reapps@lsrur.co.uk; midweek@lsrur.co.uk; sunday@lsrur.co.uk)
- * Any fixture changes should be notified to the appointment/ re-appointment secretaries as soon as confirmed. During the season, details of matches notified to the Society are emailed to the Club or School a month in advance. Any changes should be notified to the relevant appointment/ re-appointment secretary as soon as possible

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

* On the Monday of each week the Club or School will receive an email giving full details of the match officials appointed for each game notified – it is the Club or School's responsibility to confirm with the referee, by actual contact, no later than 48 hours in advance of the match. This contact should confirm the two teams involved, the kick-off time, colours of the teams (to include home teams colour change in the event of a clash) and directions to the ground. Any teams failing to confirm with the referee may have the services

of the match officials removed and those match officials appointed to other fixtures

* Late changes to match officials appointed are communicated by email and text, where more than one change in a week the latest email / text gives the correct detail of the match officials appointed

* All matches notified are available to be checked on the Society web-site www.lsrur.co.uk. In the week leading up to a fixture the details of the match officials appointed will be made visible and clubs can login with the password supplied to see contact details for the match officials

* Match Fees shall be payable for the match officials appointed which will be invoiced monthly in arrears – failure to pay by the payment date may lead to non-appointment of match officials to future games. The rates are as follows and are reviewed each season

* The rates for Season 2015/16 shall be £15.00 per game for the referee or £45.00 for a team of three match officials

* An additional fee for the match officials may be made in the event that:

o A club fails to inform the relevant Appointments Secretary/Re-Appointments Secretary and the match official(s), that a game has been cancelled by 17:00 on the day before before a Fixture is due to be played or a late notification of a game has been made - £15.00

o A Club fails to inform the Match Official(s) of a change of kick-off time, and/or venue which has led the match official not being able to referee the fixture - £25.00

o Late notifications or cancellations made after 18:00 two days before the date of the match may incur a penalty of £5.50 depending on the amount of inconvenience to the appointment secretary concerned

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

If an out of county Club fails to fulfil a fixture, by cancelling after the 5pm deadline on the Friday before a Fixture is due to be played. The home club will be responsible for claiming any charges from the other club for any cancellation charges incurred

For the purpose of this condition, the term “match official” refers to any, or all, of the following:

- * Match Referee
- * Assistant Referees (where appointed by the Society)
- * Match Observer (where appointed by the Society)

Clubs shall not engage, or seek to engage, the services of the Society’s referees for all matches, except through the Appointment Secretaries/Re-Appointments Secretary. Any Club found, to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee, to have broken this rule may be liable to have referees withdrawn from officiating at their Club for a period not exceeding 28 days

Yearly Subscription

All Clubs & Schools using the LSRUR for the provision of match officials will be invoiced a Yearly Subscription fee of £12:00