

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

September 2015

NEXT MEETING-26 OCTOBER 2015 @

VIPERS RFC 7.30PM

Dates for your diary-

25 October- President's Lunch at Anstey Hall, see the flyer on the website!

26 October- Monthly members meeting @ Vipers @ 7.30pm



William Paul Connor was born on the 3rd September 2015, congratulations from the whole society to Peter and Charlie Connor

FEATURED REFEREE OF THE MONTH...



MARK ELLIOTT

JB: What is your current level?

Mark: President's Grade

JB: Why did you start refereeing?

Mark: I Broke my right forearm badly whilst playing for Coalville. Too risky to continue playing because of my job.

JB: Best thing about refereeing?

Mark: It keeps me in touch with the game. I can genuinely assist 30 others with enjoying their afternoon (most days). I have met loads of good people through refereeing and really enjoy the work on the LSRUR committee.

JB: ... and the worst?

Mark: Sitting on your own in your changing room immediately after your game, listening to the banter from the teams changing rooms..... and missing it !

JB: What do you do for a living?

Mark: I work for Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service, looking after Coalville, Castle Donington and Ashby Fire Stations.

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

Mark: Newlands, Cape Town.....awesome stadium with really steep terracing giving a fantastic atmosphere

JB: Which referee do you admire most and why?

Mark: Before he retired, Chris White. Cool, calm, collected and a nice guy to go with it.

Of the current crop , I like the approach of Luke Pearce. He referee's with a smile on his face and I like the manner in which he speaks to the players.

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

Mark: Collapsed maul not requiring opposition players to roll away; without it there would be more playable ball and less scrums.

JB: What would your tour nickname be?

Mark: My tour name (Majorca Beach Rugby) is ONEwork it out for yourself !

JB: Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

Mark: Used to do a lot of white water canoeing and (many years ago) canoed down a river that was fed from the foothills of Mount Everest, in the Himalayas.

Leicester/Brittany 2015-2016!!

On y va!

We are provisionally looking to resurrect the exchange to Brittany, which will involve hosting 4 French (and 1 Scottish) referees for a long weekend in October/November 2015, and having the return trip to Brittany take place in March 2016.

Given the excellent and very generous hospitality shown to us when we went over, it is important we show a similar welcome in return. Therefore all offers to host and/or to join us in taking them out in the evening will be most welcome. Dates to follow.

Although this is still in the planning stage, please send all expressions of interest as well as offers to host a Frenchman (or woman) to Tom Brucciani.

Training

Below is where to find information on laws/regulations for U13-U19 and uncontested scrums. If you've just started refereeing it will be a bit confusing and time consuming but it is important that we are aware of the different regulations being used.

U13 to U19 boys rugby: There are no changes to the U13-U19 laws/regulations this season. However, if you need to find out the law variations for these age groups then you'll need to consult three different sources. Regulation 15, Regulation 15 Appendix 2 and the IRB Laws U19 Variations: http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/Governance/Regulations/01/30/34/88/RFU_Regulation_15_Neutral.pdf http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/Governance/Regulations/01/30/34/97/RFU_Regulation_15_appendix_2_Neutral.pdf

<http://laws.worldrugby.org/?variation=1>

Regulation 15 Appendix 2 implies that at scrums the turnover law only applies to U13-U15. This implication is misleading and the law (as has always been) applies from U13-U19.

Girls rugby can be found here: http://www.lsrur.co.uk/images/RFU_Regulation_U13-U15-Girls-Variations-2015.pdf

All the above documents are on the LSRUR website.

Uncontested scrums and number of front row replacements: There are different regulations for RFU League and RFU Cup (Level 5 and below); Leicestershire RU Merit League A/B; Leicestershire RU Merit League C; Leicestershire RU County Cup; Leicestershire RU U18 League; Natwest Schools Cup and the Leicestershire RU U13-U18 County Cup. All the relevant documents can be found on the LSRUR website apart from the LRU U18 League and LRU U13-U18 County Cup.

As there are so many variations and some of the regulations have not been updated so are contradictory, common-sense suggests that as referees we should have a conversation with the captains/coaches before the game to agree on replacements and uncontested scrum regulations.

Once again, a reminder that training is open to everyone. So far this season we have had a classroom theory session and a practical session at Syston RFC that involved Syston's U14s. There has also been a training session at South Leicester for assessors and coaches to ensure that we are being consistent in our observations and comments. On Wednesday 23 September we had a team of three working at the U18 County game with other referees assessing different aspects of the team of three's performance that was also very interesting and beneficial.

Christophe Ridley

A RISING STAR in the REFEREEING WORLD by John Haggart

It is most gratifying to see that a young member of our Society is making such rapid progress in his refereeing career.

Noel Manchester, our Recruitment Officer and Greg Garner our Training Officer at the time he took up refereeing and joined the Society should be very proud of their efforts to help him on his career path.

Christophe was with Leicester Tigers Academy but due to injury and his passion for the game took up refereeing. He joined our Society at the age of 18 in September 2012. He refereed many games for us [and the Tigers] during the 2012-13 Season and quickly completed his probationary games to be awarded his Society regalia and kitbag.

His talents were spotted and Chris White took an interest in him, so much so that at the end of his season with us Christophe moved down to the Gloucestershire Society as he had qualified for a sports course at Gloucester Uni.

When he left us and joined Gloucestershire in September 2013 he was a Level 8 referee, by the end of 2013-14 season he had been appointed by the RFU to games at Level 4.

In the 2014-15 Season he had refereed 21 games including Academy and League games at Level 4 and ten at Level 3. At the end of the season he was so highly regarded that the RFU chose him as their representative to The U-18 World Youth Tournament in Japan. His highlight there was to be selected to referee the semi-final between New Zealand Schools and Australia Schools.

On his return in June this year he was invited to an Interview with Tony Spreadbury and Chris White. His interview was a success and he was offered a position on the Professional Game Match Official Team.

Christophe regards his appointment as an honour and a fantastic opportunity for him to have an insight into how the professional referees operate.

His goals are:-

To continue to helping in the game; referee accurately; continue learning and to become a world class referee.

Christophe still maintains his links with Leicestershire and was present to enjoy the Family Fun day at Bosworth Water Park in August organised by Josh Burgess.

Here he is with his RFU appointed ARs on 11th April this year on a National League One [Level3] appointment – Wharfedale Macclesfield where I was his Match Observer on the day.



He is proud of the kit bag presented to him by the Society on the completion of his 10 probationary games and still uses it as he has done so since he received it.

Leicestershire Merit Table Rules & Regulations

Season 2015 - 2016

1. The competition is to be known as the Leicestershire Merit Tables. The competition shall be open to all 1st XV's of clubs who hold membership to the Leicestershire Rugby Union who are not competing in the RFU National and Midlands Leagues and for 2nd XV's of those clubs.
2. For season the 2015/16 three Merit Tables shall be ran incorporating home and away fixtures against each team in their respective table.
3. It is the responsibility of individual clubs fixtures secretary's to agree fixture dates prior to the 1st August 2015 in line with the RFU's structured season for 12 team leagues.
4. Any team that fails to honour a fixture shall be deducted 5 points. The non offending side shall be awarded a 0 – 0 win
5. Players taking part must be members of the club they are representing. A player may not play for two different clubs within the same season.
6. Should a player seek to represent a different club during the same season written notification should be given to the players previous club and a copy of correspondence be sent to the competitions committee to confirm all parties are in agreement and no debts are left unsettled.
7. Clubs who fail to meet the above regulation may be subject to a 5 point deduction at the discretion of the competitions committee.
8. A team winning a game shall be awarded 3 points, each team playing in a drawn game shall be awarded 2 points and the losing side shall be awarded 1 point for honouring the fixture.
- 9. In the case of equality of league points won, the team with the highest points total shall be deemed the higher finisher. Should they still remain tied then points against shall be taken into account followed by the aggregate score recorded over the teams previous meetings.**

10. In the above event any walkover results shall be removed from the totals for both sides.

11. The Home team is responsible for changing colours should a clash occur.

12. The home team is responsible for reporting the result to the league secretary either by phone, e-mail or text message no later than 9pm on the day of the game. Failure to do so shall result in a five point deduction and shall be recorded as a forfeited game.

13. The competitions committee shall deal with any issues or problems that should arise. Should they find themselves unable to find a solution then matters shall be passed to the Leicestershire Management Committee to deal with.

14. Teams may use up to 5 substitutes in any one game, 8 rolling subs will apply to all games.

15. Each side should ensure they have at least 4 competent front row players amongst their 20 man squad. Failure to start the game with these players shall be deemed as a forfeited game. In the event of injury to two or more front row players in the squad the game may continue uncontested until completed. The match referee shall be informed should a side be unable to continue with competitive scrums.

(i) In the case of Merit C a club must start with a competent front front row. Should the referee feel it is unsafe to do so the game may continue with uncontested scrums.

(ii) In the case of Merit C - should one team have more than three front row players available they are requested to loan enough players to the opposition in order to begin the game with three competent front row players.

16. Kick off times shall be agreed by both clubs at least 48 hours prior to the proposed match day.

17. Should a team forfeit 3 games during the course of the season they shall be removed from the tables, they are however encouraged to complete the playing program as friendly matches.

18. Entry to the Leicestershire Merit Tables is conditional on compliance with these regulations. The competitions committee reserve the right to remove clubs from the tables should they feel they are bringing the spirit of the game into question. (ex. Repeated poor on field discipline, playing non club members, forfeiting fixtures at less than 72 hours notice).