

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

NOVEMBER 2018

The next members' meeting takes place on Monday 26 November 2018 **starting at 7pm.** Tom Brucciani will deliver a session on Managing "Chat".

Dates for your diary:

Monday 26 November 2018- See above!

Monday 3 December 2018- Grading meeting: Referees it is your responsibility to ensure your coaches/mentors have submitted reports.

Saturday 8 December 2018- Curry night, get it in your diary! We had a record 13 attendees on 6 October. Let's make this one even better!

Monday 28 January 2019- Members' Meeting at Belgrave RFC. Presentation from George Richardson (RFU Midlands Division Referee) on the scrum- not to be missed!

Friday 12 April 2019- LSRUR Annual Dinner at Welford Road.

*Reminder of the relevant age grade rugby laws:

U14 - [here](#)

U15-U18 - [here](#)

Note from the Chairman

Welcome to the November newsletter. With Christmas fast approaching, all the fixture secretaries are still working hard to fulfil all the fixtures that the Society receives. We are generally covering everything that we get, but some Saturdays have seen a few fixtures that we just have not been able to cover.

Included this month is an article by Mike Mortimer. Mike is a stalwart of the Society. After a career playing at the highest level with Leicester Tigers, he took up the whistle and had a second career as a referee. Mike has filled several roles within the Society, including Training Officer and President, over the years and I was privileged to have him as my coach, in the early stages of my refereeing career. He didn't pull any punches, but that was what I needed and I became a better referee with Mike's influence. A particular highlight for me was a tour to South Africa in 2001, with Mike as the tour manager !

Kerrel Wills and I are continuing to work hard to integrate our appointments system into the RFU system, called Who's The Ref (WTR). We are currently running both systems alongside each other and Kerrel (the expert) has just about managed to get the two databases to talk to each other. It will require additional training for all users of the system and we are hoping to deliver this in the New Year. Watch this space !

I continue to watch from the side lines, in a coaching, assessing or just spectating capacity; have to admit to being a little frustrated at times. However, the rehab on my new knee is progressing well and I hope to be back in the middle, in some capacity, next season.

Continue to enjoy your refereeing and do remember that the 12 volunteers, who make up the committee, run the Society on your behalf. We are all very approachable, so please pick up the phone if there is anything that you are concerned about.

Mark Elliott

Chairman

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

BECOMING A RUGBY UNION REFEREE NEED NOT LEAD TO A LIFE OF SOLITUDE! The thoughts of Mike Mortimer

In 1982, aged 39, having played regular first team rugby for 20 years I was beginning to feel the knocks and decided to join the Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees. I had teaching experience, first class sales and management skills from my 20 years spent in commerce and had made 150 first team appearances for the Tigers.

Holding a regular first team position for six years at Leicester, enabled me to play against the best players, at the top grounds, throughout the UK. Also while playing for my local Club, I took on captaincy and coaching roles.

With such a broad band CV I felt confident that I would thrive in Refereeing circles.

Confidence or arrogance? - The answer was not long in coming.

I joined the Leicestershire Society, bought a whistle, declared myself available and was appointed to referee a match on the next Saturday. I arrived early at the game full of enthusiasm and managed all of the preliminaries without a hitch.

The time came to start the match and I blew my whistle in grand style. The ball was kicked off towards a touchline where two players (one from each side) jumped to catch the ball.

They landed 2 metres in from the touchline with the ball between them and other forwards quickly join them. This mass of about 8 players ended up on the ground with a trapped ball and no clear ball carrier. The ball not being playable made for an easy first decision - I blew my whistle to stop play. Well done I thought.

Only then did it dawn on me that **I did not have a clue as to how the match should be restarted.**

Was it a ruck or a maul?

Should the re-start be a scrum?

Should the scrum take place – where the ball ended up?

- 5 metres in from touch?

- or 15 metres in from touch line?

- and which team should put the ball in?

So starting the match was easy, as was knowing when it should be stopped (This was generally down to basic instincts) - but knowing how to restart the match was a completely different ball game.

This was a rude awakening for me, because I thought I knew the laws. I had never given a thought to how the match should be restarted once stopped. So there I was, two minutes into my first appointment, **a lonely figure, who did not have a clue as to what to do next.**

This experience put a large dent in my confidence and I realized that thinking I knew it all was **extremely arrogant.**

I continued the match by using calculated guessing and because of the general good fellowship amongst the players they just got on with it, probably thinking I was no worse than the referee they had the previous week.

As a result of this humiliating experience I studied one law a week for the following two seasons until I became quite proficient and could hold my corner with any of the other referees. This was an invaluable exercise because when you are called upon to discuss a law situation with players, referees and even Assessors, **knowing that you are right** gives an enormous boost to your confidence.

Advice to a new starter referees:

- Study the law because **you will not know it well enough.**
- Be firm and honest when making decisions – If you did not see something or made an error admit it and get on with the match.
- Talk to the players **if you want to**, but do not enter into any debates. Discussion time can be arranged after the 80 minutes.
- Work at your fitness (the players do). As a good guide you should be arriving at the breakdowns at the same time as the wing forwards in the match you are refereeing.
- Discuss all difficulties that you experience on the field with other Society referees and ask them what they would do. Fellow referees can be very helpful when discussing positional options and the instructions given to players during the match.

The best help you will get will come from your fellow referees, which is why your Society organizes regular training sessions, members' meetings, curry nights and social dinners, etc.

You have the additional bonus of being a member of probably the most efficient and well run Society in the UK. The LSRU has been used as an example of good practice by the RFU Refereeing department for the past 20 years. **They will always support you – Use them!**

Mike MORTIMER

FEATURED REFEREE OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER... it is our master of all things curried LUKE THOMPSON!

JB: What is your current level?

Luke: 9

JB: Why did you start refereeing?

Luke: I had a string of injuries and there was a course at my club. I always enjoyed touch judging whilst being on the bench so thought - why not! I was never going to make it playing and to this day I've never looked back.



JB: Best thing about refereeing?

Luke: The feeling of pride in facilitating a game for 30 players, coaches and spectators. Oh and free beer 🍺

JB: ... and the worst?

Luke: Washing my kit. Who knew refs got so messy and yet never put in a single tackle or pass!

JB: What do you do for a living?

Luke: Business Analyst on the Technology Graduate Scheme at Dunelm

JB: What would your tour nickname be?

Luke: Tommo..... Haven't been on tour in a while. Maybe I need to earn a new one 😊

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

Luke: Call me boring but, I think it would be Twickenham. I can't tell you the excitement I felt the first time I walked out into the stands. It would be incredible to make it onto the field.

JB: Which referee do you admire most and why?

Luke: He may not be everyone's favourite but, Nigel Owens. His career has been far from easy but he never referees without having a laugh and makes sure to always referee community rugby back in Wales when he's not on the world stage. I hope I remain grounded like that.

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

Luke: Law 19.15 a-g find me a scrum half that follows it in its entirety and does not cheat!! Get the ball in and let's see some shove! No faf!

JB: Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

Luke: I had to write to Twickenham to take my ELRA at the age of 13 (not the minimum age of 14) making me the youngest ref in Staffs at the time.

Monster Law Quiz

Think you know the law? Take this test and prove it!

1. What is the maximum distance between the goal line and dead ball line?
 - a. 15m
 - b. 20m
 - c. 22m
 - d. 30m

2. An attacking player in possession of the ball comes into contact with the referee in his opponent's in-goal area, and it prevents a defender from making a tackle. What is the correct decision?
 - a. Play on
 - b. Scrum to defending team
 - c. Scrum to attacking team
 - d. Try at point of contact

3. The attackers are awarded a free kick and choose to take a scrum. The ball comes out and an attacker drop kicks the ball which goes over the cross bar and then over the dead-ball line. What should the referee rule?
 - a. 22m drop out
 - b. Award the goal
 - c. Scrum to defending side from where the kick was taken
 - d. Options – 22m or scrum

4. Advantage may be played if the ball touches the referee but then goes back to the same team who previously played it. TRUE/FALSE?

5. While standing with one foot behind the 22 metre line and the other foot outside the 22 metre line, a defender catches the ball direct from a kick by an attacker. The defender, still with one foot on the 22 metre line, kicks the ball directly into touch. Where is the place of the lineout?

- a. Where the ball went into touch
- b. Opposite where the ball was kicked
- c. Depends on whether the ball had reached the plane of the 22m when caught

6. A player goes to ground near the goal-line, takes possession of the ball, and then reaches out and grounds the ball in the opponents' in-goal. Momentum is not involved. What should the referee award?

- a. A try
- b. Penalty on the 5m
- c. Penalty where the player lies

7. The ball has been hooked, but remains near the edge of the tunnel with neither team going forward. A flanker uses a foot to move the ball back through the scrum towards their number 8. The referee should:

- a. Award a penalty to the opposing team
- b. Award a free kick to the opposing team
- c. Play on
- d. Reset the scrum with the same team putting in

8. A ruck is pushed into in-goal and the ball crosses the goal line but is still within the confines of the ruck. May a defender reach into the ruck in an attempt to ground the ball?

- a. Yes
- b. No

9. At kick off the ball hits the upright of the defending team's posts and bounces back toward the 22m where it is caught cleanly by a defender who immediately calls a mark. What is your decision?

- a. Free kick to the catcher where the ball was caught
- b. Play on

10. You award a penalty kick which is taken quickly and the opposing team fail to retreat 10m before tackling the ball carrier. You award a second penalty for failing to retreat 10m, making a mark 10m further forward from the first. The scrum half takes another quick tap and goes and the opposition cry foul saying you can't take 2 quick tapped penalties. What do you do?

- a. Play on
- b. Award a scrum to the opposition on the mark
- c. Stop play and ask for the Penalty to be re-taken



Can you spot a past president and a current committee member of LSRUR in the picture?



Angus Nichols was presented his kit by the Chairman. Congratulations Angus, here is to the next ten matches!

On Sunday 4th November 2018 Leicestershire Rugby held a 100 Year Memorial Service Match at Coalville Rugby Football Club.

Two matches were held, the first was a Leicestershire U18 team v Welbeck Sixth Form Defence College, followed by a match between a Leicestershire 15 that was made up of players that had served in the armed forces against The Royal Corps Signals Rugby.

Between the matches a 2 minute silence with colours of the British Legion being lowered in respect.

The Society provided Teams of 4 to both matches



Jenny Burrows refereed the U18 match assisted by AR's Elliott Coombes and Dan Everett and 4th Official Chris Hayward



Peter Bower refereed the Senior match with AR's Duncan Chandler and Gavin Hill with Chris Hayward as the 4th Official

Your Chairman and President provided advice to the officials from the VIP balcony



Some pictures from the
President's Lunch on 28 October.



Monster Law Quiz Answers:

1. “C” – 22m

Although, as a referee, you really do not want to be thinking about this. If there was ever a dispute about pitch sizes and you have been asked to intervene then, it's the groundsman's problem so pass it back to him. You don't ever want that monkey!

2. “D” TRY AT POINT OF CONTACT

Law 6.11: If the ball-carrier touches the referee or other non-player in in-goal and either team gains an advantage:

- a. If the ball is in possession of an attacking player, the referee awards a try where the contact took place.
- b. If the ball is in possession of a defending player, the referee awards a touch down where the contact took place.

3. “D” OPTIONS

Law 8.29 states you cannot score a goal from a free kick until an opponent has touched the ball or it has gone dead or the ball carrier has been tackled. This is true even when a scrum option is taken

Law 21.12 determines what you must rule when a ball is kicked dead through the in-goal. As it is not a legitimate drop kick, it is treated as a kick in open play therefore you offer the option of scrum or 22m. If it had been a legitimate attempt at goal, it would be a 22m. drop-out.

4. “FALSE”

Law 6.10 states that if no side gains an advantage you play on, but if there is an advantage then you must award a scrum to the team who last played the ball.

5. “C” – Depends on whether the ball had reached the 22m

May 2018 law amend changes the old definition of who had caused the ball to go into touch/the 22. It now depends on the ball not the receiver. So if the ball had reached the 22m when caught then it's a lineout where it went into touch. If it had not reached the 22m when caught, then it is taken back in and the lineout is in line with where the kick took place on the nearest touchline.

6. “A” – TRY

Law 13.1 allows for a player who goes to ground to gather the ball to play it immediately

7. “B” – FREE KICK TO OPPOSITION

Law 19.38(e): Non-front row players may not play the ball in the tunnel

8. “YES”

Law 15.18 Once the ball crosses into the in goal the ruck is over.

9. “B” - PLAY ON

Law 17 – while you can claim a mark after the ball has hit the posts, you cannot claim a mark from a kick off.

10. “A” - PLAY ON

Law 20.15 is clear and says that the second PK cannot be taken BEFORE the referee has made the mark. So a 2nd quick tap is permissible if you have made a mark. It is not allowed if you have not made a second mark and you can call them back to re-take (useful if you need to slow things down when the game is getting frantic)

Law questions taken in part from the World Rugby Law exam – Recommended for all referees.