

# Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

October 2018

The next members' meeting takes place on Monday 29 October 2018 **starting at 7pm**. Greg Garner will deliver a session on self-analysis and how it can help you improve performance.

## **Dates for your diary:**

**Sunday 28 October 2018- 1pm for 1.30pm-** President's Lunch to take place at Longliffe Golf Club.

**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!

**Sunday 3 March 2019-** Oakham School 7s and then **Sunday 10 March 2019-** Uppingham School 7s. These tournaments will showcase some of the best schoolboy 7s players in the country.

**Friday 12 April 2018-** LSRUR Annual Dinner at Welford Road.

\*If you would like a midweek game contact Louis Massarella now! Now the students are back there are even more high quality games that need covering.

\*Contact John Hill to register your interest in relation to Six Nations tickets. England play Scotland, France and Italy at home although, there are limited tickets available for the Italy match.

\*There are new red card forms to be used which are on the website.

## **Note from the Chairman**

Welcome to the November newsletter.

I hope that you are continuing to enjoy your refereeing and your time in the middle.

We are continuing to cover almost all of the games that are notified to us. Notably, we are covering more Sunday games than ever before; remember that there is some quality rugby out there on a Sunday morning. The same goes for midweek games, with the Universities now kicking in. Great work by Louis and Duncan to get all these fixtures covered; do give them a call if you can help out.

The Committee are continuing to work hard, on your behalf. As previously mentioned, there are some impending changes to the governance of our Society, most notably how we are affiliated to the Rugby Football Union (RFU). In the past we have been affiliated through the Leicestershire Rugby Union. However, we now have the Rugby Football Refereeing Union (RFRU), through which we are now affiliated and we will shortly become full voting members of the RFU, through this body.

As part of these changes, we are having to look at a new appointments system, called Who's the Ref.

All of the other 34 referee societies are now using this system.

The issue we have, is that this system is not a patch on our current system, that has been developed by Kerrel Wills, over the past few years.

Therefore, we are working hard to ensure that we can still maintain the functionality of our current system and our website, whilst beginning to utilise the Who's The Ref system. Kerrel is putting many hours of hard work into this and we are very grateful to him for this.

Our website is now used widely by referees and clubs alike, with over 1000 'hits' per month.

This is one of the reasons we are keen to hold on to our appointment system, as this populates the website with fixture/appointment information, etc.

I will keep you updated on progress.

I am still finding it strange standing on the side lines, instead of being in the middle with the whistle. The one positive is that I am getting to see other people refereeing and what I am seeing is really positive. We are good at what we do !

I've also been trying to spread the word amongst players, that refereeing is a viable option, once it becomes too painful to play any more ! We do need an influx of new referees and, alongside youngsters taking up the whistle, those who have played for many years and been involved every Saturday would make ideal candidates. They know the game and it also keeps them involved on a Saturday afternoon !

So, spread the word in the Clubs that you visit. We hope to produce some recruitment posters in the near future, which we will get up in all the Clubs in the County.

Continue to enjoy your refereeing and remember, the Society is your Society and the Committee exist to serve refereeing in Leicestershire. We are very approachable, so do contact us should you have any issues.

Mark Elliott

Chairman

Leicestershire Rugby Union and the Royal British Legion are holding a fund raising rugby match in aid of The Poppy Appeal. **The Game will take place on Sunday the 4th November at 14.15 against the Royal Signals at Coalville RFC.** It will be a team of players from Leicestershire who are ex-forces. This will be preceded by a game between Welbeck DSFC and another military side.

The following link will take you to the details :-

<https://leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk/news/calling-all-ex-servicemen-rugby-players>

We will be providing teams of 3, plus a 4<sup>th</sup> Official.  
All members are invited to come down to Coalville on the day.

Regards

Mark

## **SUNDAYS**

The last few Sundays have been busy, with over 20 referees appointed on two consecutive Sundays and thank-you to everyone who has made themselves available – it is most appreciated.

The momentum does not slow down as we head in to November, with the next Super Sunday on 18<sup>th</sup> as the next rounds of the Junior County Cup and Plate are being played which will require circa 20 referees.

There is an increasing number of Ladies and Girls games on a Sunday afternoon and if you are not available in a morning, then please give consideration to helping out in the afternoon.

Looking ahead, a couple of dates for your 2019 diaries as the Oakham School 7s tournament is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> March and the following Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> March) it will be the Uppingham School 7s.

Given the high standard of the teams participating in both of the tournaments, I am ideally looking for support from as many as possible L6,7 and 8 referees.

As ever, I can be contacted on my mobile 07896 202382 or by email to [sunday@lsrur.co.uk](mailto:sunday@lsrur.co.uk).

Thank-you for your continued support.

Duncan Chandler  
Sunday Appointments

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

JB: What is your current level?

Andrew: 8D

JB: Why did you start refereeing?

Andrew: Injured playing – airlifted with a suspected broken neck.

JB: Best thing about refereeing?

Andrew: All the usuals, still involved with the game, putting something back, most refs are ex-players so they 1, know how to drink and 2, continue the spirit of fellowship throughout every aspect of rugby.

JB: ... and the worst?

Andrew: Not really got a worst, but if I had to pick something personal, it's "ivory tower" assessors. (Andrew stresses this opinion has been formed on the basis of a couple of experiences with exchange assessors with agendas.)

JB: What do you do for a living?

Andrew: Erm... I used to be a lawyer but I'm alright now!

JB: What would your tour nickname be?

Andrew: The obvious one is "Foreskin", but there's been many "Bruce", "Stan", "Extreme".....

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

Andrew: New Zealand or South Africa.

JB: Which referee do you admire most and why?

Andrew: Barnes all the way. Not only because we (Tigers) have won a significant amount of Northampton derbies with him in the middle, but because he is the under-stated more accurate Owens.



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

Andrew: Ball in touch – do you know all the variations?? There's gotta be a simpler set of outcomes!

JB: Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

Andrew: I was nearly a professional opera singer!

**Law Quiz** : Would you get this one right?

Scenario: Blue v Red. Red are leading 11-9 and the clock has gone beyond 80 minutes when Red are penalised on the half way and Blue opts to kick at goal.

It's a long kick – on the half-way line and at an angle. The kick flies high, dips, misses and hits the padding on the upright. From there the ball bounces into the field of play where a defending Red player, running back, grabs it. He is still running back over the goal-line when a Blue tackler grabs him, and he loses the ball backwards in the in-goal.

The Red fullback, picks up the bouncing ball and then, like a scrumhalf, dives to throw it over the dead-ball line.

It is now well past 81 minutes on the clock.

Your Decision?

(See page 9 for the answer)

# Umpires to Referees - and back?

Article by Paul Dobson, Moonsport, the link to the article is below:

<http://www.sareferees.co.za/News/umpires-to-referees--and-back/2831180/>

**In rugby football, we claim we have referees and yet they are, perhaps, more correctly umpires while cricket has umpires who are, perhaps, more correctly referees.**

Umpire comes from the French non-pere - not partial. Non-pere became numpire in English and a numpire became an umpire, the way a naranje became an orange. Strictly, an umpire is a man who watches and makes up his own mind about any decision to be made.

The referee is simply somebody referred to, the way an employee is somebody who is employed. He was referred to for a decision

Nowadays - or at least till very recently - the rugby referee has made up his own mind while the cricket umpire is a hybrid - sometimes making up his own mind but often referred to - sometimes loudly - by players wanting a decision. But the match referee in big cricket matches certainly is a referee. He is referred to, to give a decision.

The existence of referees and umpires in games is the result of original sin, for in beginning there were no umpires or referees. The players got on with the game.

Changes came when the game, generically known as football, came to be introduced to schools, of which Rugby School was the most influential.

Originally, the captains of each team (side) decided on right and wrong. Rugby School's rules, as written in 1840 state: "Heads of sides, or two deputies appointed by them, are the sole arbiters of all disputes."

It all sounds delightfully innocent, but the truth is that it did not work. A rudimentary knowledge of human nature would tell you that it would not work. What would be the next step if the two captains could not agree?

Enter the umpires. They were not neutrals but each one represented one of the teams playing in the match.

If the captains could not agree with the decision, the umpires had a chance to make their decision. Each umpire had a stick. To show their decision they either raised or lowered their stick. If both sticks were up or both were down, a happy decision could be made. But if one was up and one was down, there was an impasse.

The man to break the impasse was the referee. He was a revered gentleman sitting on the touch-line. Off they went to him and explained the incident. They referred to him and his decision was accepted.

In 1885, they hauled the referee out of his easy chair and thrust him onto the field, but the umpires stayed on the field with him, but not for long.

Fairy Heatlie, the great man of South Africa's early international and Currie Cup rugby, announced: "Thanks be for small mercies! Umpires were scrapped after the 1892 season."

The umpires were removed and the touch judges with flags in their sticks were born but with no powers beyond signalling touch and the result of a penalty kick at goal or a conversion attempt. The referee became the sole judge of fact and law, which ended disputes.

That is how things stayed till important touch judges became assistant referees with increased powers and communication gadgets. Then came sanctionary cards (cribbed from soccer) and then the TMO (cribbed from gridiron via Pretoria) and then the citing commissioner - all filled with good intentions of eliminating referee error or oversight and foul play.

Then recently, more and more the referee was encouraged to be a referee again, with players taking on the role of referring to referee, in fact often telling him what he should do, and they are often aided by team helpers on the touchline.

This sad change has been partly brought about by the referees themselves who have more and more become law-coaches for the referee under the guise of managing the game. The more referees talked, the more players talked.

You have heard the cries of "Holding" and "Offside". You have seen the scrumhalf behind a tackle flinging out a dramatic arm to point out an opponent's villainy. You have heard the captain advising the referee that he should card a player.

More and more the game has accepted the mores of soccer - from hugging scorers to disputing refereeing decisions. It's not quite the raucousness of the cricket appeal but it could become so.

Many of the older generations would prefer a return to the good manners of the days of silent refereeing and undramatic acceptance of decisions.

It won't happen, will it?





The Chairman, Mark Elliott, presented Luke Thompson with his Society kit on Saturday 13 October 2018, as he has now completed 10 games for LSRUR. Luke was previously a member of the Staffordshire Society and, through work, has now relocated to Leicester.

**Law Quiz:** Correct Answer:

Penalty to Blue on the 5m line in line with where the ball was thrown over the dead-ball line or on the 15m if it was closer to touch

Law 9.7 (b)- A player must not intentionally knock, place, push or throw the ball with arm or hand from the playing area

Sanction (Law 20.1) : Penalty kick, 5 metres from the goal-line and at least 15 metres from the touchline as the infringement occurred in in-goal.

A penalty try must be awarded if the offence prevents a try that would probably otherwise have been scored.

If the fullback had grounded the ball and thereby made it dead, Blue would not have a penalty kick at goal to win the game (if they took that option) .The match would have been over and Red would have won, as time was up when the ball went into in-goal.

If he had opted to kick the ball dead, again the game would have been over.

## Positive feedback for Referees.

**All too often in this modern era, referees are quick to become the scapegoat, when teams lose or underperform and both players and spectators are quick to criticise referees for their decisions.**

**However, with the season only 6 weeks old, I am delighted to report that teams and their managers have taken the time to get in touch with some really positive feedback on several of our members. Please see this below.**

**It is all too easy to contact us to criticise referees but it is refreshing to know that teams are taking the time to do the opposite.**

**Mark Elliott  
Hon Appointments Secretary  
Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees**

*“Duncan*

*I just wanted to drop you a note to say that we had Angus Nickols from Market Bosworth ref our under 14 match at Oakham on Sunday. I would say without exception he is the best ref we have had. He had complete control over the players, coaches, supporters and empathised perfectly with all the players in what was a tricky match as it was so one sided. He allowed players to be switched between the teams in an attempt to make the game competitive without ending up a farce and displayed a fluid mentality to the situation that other refs might not do. Be fabulous if you could feed this back to Angus.*

*Thanks*

*Jonny Bland*

*Oakham Under 14's”*

*“Gents,*

*Could you please let me know who the official was in charge of our Colts at Mkt Harboro at the weekend?*

*There was a serious injury and her handling of the situation (and the game in general) was so good our Colts management team have asked that we get in touch to thank her*

*Many thanks*

*Mark*

*Referee was Jenny Burrows”*

*“Hello all,*

*I am writing to give our thanks to the official who oversaw our burbage second team fixture against old newts this weekend - Rob Haines.*

*Rob managed the game really well and did so with respect and professionalism through out.*

*All the lads commented on how well the game was officiated and we felt it important to feedback.*

*Please do pass on our feedback and thanks.*

*Kind regards,*

*Tom”*

*“Sirs,*

*I am writing a short message to compliment the referee of our U15s County Cup match on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.*

*I am the manager of the Hinckley U15s team and had the pleasure of meeting Gavin Hill for the first time prior to the match. Gavin was courteous, professional, well presented and conducted himself in an exemplary manner. His pre match talk to the players was clear and concise and well received.*

*I find that many people are quick to criticise referees in most sports these days and the coaches and I from Hinckley would like to pass on our thanks to Gavin and the LSRUR for allowing the boys to play the game they love.*

*We look forwards to seeing him again in the future.*

*Yours faithfully*

*Lee Buckler*

*Hinckley U15s manager.”*

*“Hi all , A big thank you to Andrew Torrens today , great refereeing for the game at Burbage 👍📱*

*Andy Cheshire”*

*“As a club member said to me yesterday "Who was the ref? Very quietly did his job that you almost didn't notice him." Well done Peter Connor - top performance. Andy Beevers, Oadby Wyggs”*