

# Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

September 2016

Next members meeting will be MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2016 at Vipers RFC, 7pm for 7.30pm.

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Dates for your diary:

**Monday 31 October 2016-** A Coach's Perspective, Mark will be hosting a Q&A with Dave Morris (Loughborough Students), Dave Johnson (Lutterworth) and Ivan Bills (Vipers). The format will be a directed open discussion and it promises to be a very thought provoking and insightful spectacle!

**Sunday 6 November 2016-** President's Lunch at Ansty Hall, more details to follow.

**Monday 28 November 2016-** Boris Stankovic on the scrum!

**Friday 21 April 2017-** Annual Dinner at Leicester Tigers RFC.

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LSRUR have 11 tickets available for each autumn international match at Twickenham. If you are interested please contact John Hill. If demand exceeds the ticket allocation, they will go to a ballot.

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You have the perfect opportunity to pay your subs at the members meeting on the 26 September 2016 because Pete Bower will be collecting them! The new law books will be distributed once members have paid their subs.

You can pay your subs by direct transfer (details set out below), cheque or cash on the night of the meeting.

Bank of Scotland

LSRUR

12-20-26

01875248

If you have not already sent your October availability to Mark Elliott and Kerrel Wills, please send it to them now because appointments are starting to be allocated.

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### The new green kit

Due to the new green kit being undersized, new shirts are being ordered and will be available in October.

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Cliff Hawkins has been unintentionally omitted from the handbook, Cliff does an invaluable job assisting Noel Manchester with our newly recruited referees, should you need to contact him his details are as follows:

20 Moir Close,  
Sileby,  
Leicestershire LE127RN.  
01509 814833 / 07796 792791.

Please also note that John Haggart's email address is incorrect in the handbook, it should be [johnhaggart64@sky.com](mailto:johnhaggart64@sky.com)

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### SADO

Why not consider assessing?

If concerns about fitness or injury are bringing about the decision to stop refereeing, then why not consider becoming an Assessor/Advisor? It ensures continuing the close involvement in the sport and will be so helpful to the Society. For the more ambitious Members, it could also be a possible alternative route to achieving higher levels of rugby.

Please contact SADO (Geoff Blackburn) if you would like further information or to discuss the possibility.

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The Society has been presented with 5 Gilbert 2015 RWC balls, can any of our members come up with a good idea on how we should distribute these.

Sundays

By the time you read this article 'Super Sunday' may well have taken place on 25th September with 18 referees being appointed - possibly an all-time record !!

Many thanks to those who made themselves available, and equally to those who took the trouble to me advise that they were unavailable.

The next big hurdle is Sunday 6th November with a similar number of referees being needed for the next round of the Junior County Cup and Plate Tournament - please let me know if you are available and I will do my best to accommodate any requests for a 'local' fixture to reduce travelling.

Looking ahead, there is a new style format County Cup for Girls U15 and U18 coming up in October, November and January which will be run on a triangular basis over 3 Sundays in an afternoon.

Again, if you are interested please let me know.

Finally you will see unfamiliar names for some of the Junior fixtures as we now have 4 junior referees - Ben Sawyer, Allistair Kesby, Sam Flatt and George Jones - who are working their way through their probationary period under the tutelage of Noel Manchester and please give them a warm welcome if appointed to your own Club.

As ever I can be contacted by e-mail to [Sunday@lsrur.co.uk](mailto:Sunday@lsrur.co.uk) or mobile 07896 202382.

Duncan

Sunday 4 September 2016 - Uppingham School 1XV v St John's College (Zimbabwe) by Paul Tilley

I had been appointed by to this prestigious fixture by our venerable Sunday Appointment Secretary, Duncan Chandler, and undertook my normal preparations with extra verve. Did I need to learn another language? My friend "Google" informed me that Zimbabwe has sixteen official languages! Well that knocked that pre-match thought out of my head, save that I learnt how to say a few well known & used English swear words in a variety of Zimbabwean languages. So my time wasn't entirely wasted!

Nick Houghton, my mentor, and I spoke and he agreed to come and watch me. Nick had a communications set. I'm also the Referee Co-ordinator for Market Harborough RUFC, and when Gavin Hill's U16 game at Market Harborough on 4 September fell through he agreed to act as one of my ARs. Nick acted as the other AR. So we were set.

As many of you may know the Director of Sport at Uppingham is Paul Westgate, an Elite Level 5 RFU coach, and he is ably assisted by Tyrone Howe, an ex-Ireland international player. I took it upon myself to get as much post-match feedback as I could - it isn't often you get this opportunity.

The day was warm and sunny so I applied sun cream to give my follically challenged head some respite - you don't get that in January at Jimmies! Following the pre-match discussions with the teams I discussed my requirements with Nick and Gavin. Let the game begin!

Uppingham were just starting their season. St John's College were at the end of their season and this fixture was their last on tour. The game was keenly contested and hard fought but played in a good spirit. It was a quick game but was interrupted by a number of double knock-ons, thus allowing everyone a breather. The ARs were pleasingly only delivering material calls to me in game time, particularly for defensive backs being off-side at odd times. A tight first half left the game reasonably even at the break. As the game moved into Q3 St John's better teamwork began to deliver points on the board. One move where the fly half looked one way but passed the other way, to the winger coming off his wing, lead to a try under the posts. I was tempted to clap in appreciation but thought better of it! A final score of Uppingham 12 - St John's 24 was a fair reflection, in my opinion, of the strengths of both sides at that time. I thanked Nick and Gavin again for giving up their valuable time. Nick and I had a discussion on my performance and areas for improvement. As this was only my second game since a broken leg in April I was generally pleased with the way I had handled the game but, as ever, there were lessons to be learnt and skills developed.

The after match festivities took place, as normal, in the new, and substantial, sports pavilion. Food and non-alcoholic drink was consumed, followed by a few words from Paul Westgate and the St John's Head Coach. As mementoes of the occasion, and as a gesture of thanks, I now have some new Uppingham 1XV socks and the St John's tour brochure. Paul was complimentary about the standard of officiating, which was pleasing given Uppingham's defeat.

The sun was still shining as I left the car park - what a wonderful game rugby is with like-minded people showing sportsmanship and respect for each other. I left a contented man having enjoyed entirely the experience.

## Members' Meeting – 26th Sept 2016

Within a referee society there are different types of members and match officials. These in the main are Referees, Match Observers, Referee Coaches/Mentors and ARs. Some members fulfil more than one of these roles at various times. All exist for the benefit of each other.

The focus of this meeting will be how different match officials relate to and support each other for mutual benefit and in particular enable referees to make progress and improvement in specific aspects of the game.

The session will be led by Mike Jones (National Panel Match Observer).

Match Observers and Referee Coaches/Mentors are asked to bring with them any data collecting sheets which they use when observing a referee. Everyone is encouraged to bring a piece of paper and a pen/pencil.

Please arrive early so that the usual procedures of the monthly meeting are carried out quickly and allow us to get started as soon as possible.

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## Christmas Curry

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Andrew Forsythe is kindly organising a Christmas Curry night on the 05 December 2016. Members are invited to meet at the Parcel Yard pub on London road around 6.30 and then to head to Clowes for 8pm for a curry.

If you are interested or would like to come please inform Andrew as he may need to book in advance.

Please register your interest by emailing Andrew at [andrew.forsythe@wplcdigital.com](mailto:andrew.forsythe@wplcdigital.com) or by text on 07831265954.

### Game Management, Part 3.

Last month I presented an article, in this newsletter, on Contextual Judgement & Materiality as part of a wider Game Management approach. This month I would like to cover Managing Critical Incidents.

During any game we can be faced with a critical incident such as foul play, injuries, try yes or no; all big decisions within the context of a game. This could be from the very first play of the game right through to the last play. What is important in a Game Management Strategy is that you are prepared and deal with each / every incident in the same methodical, calm manner.

As part of my referee warm up, I mentally rehearse every aspect of the game, this includes critical incidents. I have a clear picture in my mind of what each phase of play should look like and anything that falls outside of that needs action on my part. Visualising what may happen, I then go through the motions of managing foul play:

Red Card scenario, preventing any further issues, separating players, taking time off, allowing thinking time and then I will verbalise my sanctioning. I will imagine calling over captain and player, I will deliver my message and sanction. For example. 'This player has punched an opposition player to the head twice, that is a red card' I would then imagine showing the card to the player and showing him the way off (there is no conversation between you and the offender), then I would look to talk to both captains and let them know that this incident is over and send them away to deliver that message.

Yellow card scenario 1, preventing any further issues, separating players if required, taking time off, allowing thinking time and then I will verbalise my sanctioning. I will imagine calling over captain and player, I will deliver my message and sanction. For example; 'This player has kicked a player in the back whilst on the ground'. Show the player the card and the way off, remind the captain of his responsibility to manage his players. Then turn away and award the penalty. (No discussion with either player or captain)

Yellow Card scenario 2, Prevent further issues if required, wait for offending player to get up or call him towards me, Show him a yellow card whilst saying what the offence was. E.g. 'No arms used in the tackle'. And show him the way off. I would then turn away and award the penalty (No discussion with the player or captain).

Penalty only, I would imagine the offence, and practice what I was going to say, for example 'late tackle by red 12'. I would practice this for lots of different scenarios. (There should be no lengthy explanation or discussion).

In relation to the try yes or no kind of decision by anticipating what play is on you should be able to get in a reasonably good position to give a good call, however we all get caught out from time to time. My take on this is, be honest. If you did not see the ball grounded, or a foot in touch before the ball was grounded say so. In the community game (up to L5) you may have club TJ's but they are not active, so you can't see everything. The worst thing you can do is bluff it by making things up. Players will appreciate a simple 'sorry, I did not see a grounding' or 'sorry but I was unsighted so haven't seen a foot in touch'.

The key to managing these types of situation are all down to preparation. Be ready; anticipate a late, high, no arms tackle from the kick off (Freddie Tuilaghi Jr, Singha 7's Leicester v Newcastle).

Next time we will explore Control & Communication, the final piece of the puzzle, but as always if anyone would like to discuss this further, or indeed any other area of refereeing, please feel free to contact me. (Details are in the Society Handbook).

Greg Garner

LSRUR Referee Development.