

Cambridge  
University and  
District Rugby  
Referees' Society  
Formed 1946



# CONTACT

Keeping You In Touch

Better Refereeing for Better Rugby



February  
2017

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Tuesday 7th March

Monthly Meeting  
at Shelford RFUC  
7.30pm

Topic: Understanding the Game  
CMOD Module with  
John Widdowson RFU

### Friday 7th April

Annual Dinner  
and Ladies Night  
at Christ's College  
Contact David Norman  
TN: 01223 335068  
Email: dn102@cam.ac.uk

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A winner is someone who  
recognizes God's given talents,  
develops that talent into skill  
and uses that skill to reach their  
ultimate goal.

CUDRRS needs more winners

## APPOINTMENTS

Please contact our  
Appointments Manager  
Thomas Northcote  
by using this email address  
[cudrrsappoints@gmail.com](mailto:cudrrsappoints@gmail.com)

## VISIT

CUDRRS' website  
[www.cambsref.co.uk](http://www.cambsref.co.uk)

## CHANGING TIMES

### WORRYING TIMES

It is said that there can be no progress without change. That may well be so but change can also bring the opposite of progress - decline.



At the February meeting, whilst our newly formed Referees with Ambition & Potential Group were being addressed by John Widdowson, the RFU Match Official Development Officer, other no less ambitious members considered the effect of the latest changes proclaimed by World Rugby about the high tackle and other matters.

Dave Howell led the conversation.

The measures to protect players heads were welcomed and early indications showed that players were respecting them. Indeed in one instance, a player admitted to the referee that he had failed to commit to a possible try saving tackle as he would have connected with the scorer's head. Yes, an extreme example but one that shows the safety message is having an impact. Heads are now "no go" areas.

At Under 13 level, the tackle line is below the armpits and that might be adopted for the adult game eventually if the latest guidance on accidental and reckless high tackles is not heeded and proves ineffective.

The change to the scrummage engagement process - Crouch Bind Set - has not eliminated the problem of many scrums collapsing, being reset or being abandoned to free and penalty kicks. In local rugby, as in many professional level matches, the Bind and Set has become one movement. Provided there are no safety issues and the scrum is stable, the Other Ranks agreed that play should continue. The forwards would prefer this sensible approach rather than have to start the engagement all over again. A change back to the crouch and bind days may yet be the answer to the delayed reintroduction of the ball to play because of front row shenanigans.

It was agreed that the season so far has been a start / stop affair. There has been a lack of appointments for our referees because fewer local teams are turning out on Saturdays. It is a real worry. There is a danger that disenchanted members may seek other pursuits.

The RFU must direct its efforts to increasing the number of adult players in clubs otherwise Continuous Match Official Development programmes will turn out to be a wasted effort. No games will mean no referees will be needed, however competent they become.

**CONTACT** hopes the County will address this issue from the playing side. College Rugby is also in need of a boost as, increasingly, students are coming from non Rugby playing schools

Other societies are not as blessed as CUDRRS with a surfeit of referees. Our Management Group will continue to offer our surplus resources to neighbouring societies who are short of officials and will try to get more games for our match officials.

The devil makes work for idle hands. Saturday DIY at home or shopping trips are not attractive alternatives. "Youth rugby on Sundays could use any unemployed Saturday officials" says John Hanlon. Those refs fancying a fresh challenge should contact him.

The times indeed are a' changing. Quo Vadis, Rugbeia Cantabrigia!

Editor

## CHANGE OF DELIVERY

Better Refereeing for Better Rugby requires ongoing improvement of performance. Development training programmes are designed to achieve this. The RFU has produced a modular Continuous Match Official Development scheme that their staff will deliver. This replaces the Continuous Personal Development scheme that local societies organised. It brings referee development under more central control.

News of this was posted by Secretary Tyrrell on our website last November. Did you read it? Here's another chance.

*Welcome to the 2nd Match Official Development Send Out for the 2016-17 season, which is being distributed to coincide with the first RFRU Council Meeting and Conference, to be held on Sunday 6th November 2016, themed on; 'The Changing Rugby Landscape, Winning the Future'*

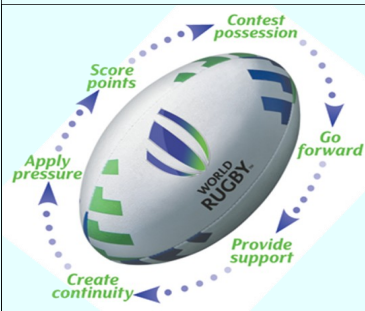


*This is an exciting time for colleagues from around the country, to hear about the progress being made against the recommendations of the Match Official's Blueprint, but also from key speakers on the developments both inside and outside of our game. It also enables delegates to represent local views whilst engaging on a national basis, to share insights and seek opportunities for the benefit of the whole game, meaning, 'more rugby played more often by more people'.*

During the past month we have been busy delivering the revised match official CPD offer, both in societies and clubs, focusing on the tackle to complement the delivery of Rugby Aware presentations around the country. To book a session contact your Area Training Manager or Match Official Development Officer.

CUDDRS did and John Widdowson, Area MODO, came and delivered the module on the Maul to us. It was based on knowledge of what a maul is, how it is formed, why it is formed and what can happen to make it a success or unsuccessful.

Firstly, John explained the newly defined Principles of Refereeing under the acronym **SELL**. It stands for **S**afety, **E**njoyment/**E**quity, **L**earning and **L**aw. National Foundation Course trained referees will recognise three of these and wonder why Learning has been added. This is intended to represent that refereeing should be a learning process for players so that they do not repeat offences. Communication and dialogue is part of proactive refereeing to teach players the laws and so prevent stoppages and encourage continuity of play.



The use of the maul and its formation varies with the different levels of the game. John invited the meeting to recall the mauls they experienced and how they refereed them. To do so effectively requires knowledge of Law 17 and the principles of play.

The maul is a stratagem for going forward with possession in attack, supporting the ball carrier and if skilfully executed leads to territorial gain, continuity and a possible score, *a la* attacking throw in five metres from the opposition goal line.

Law 17 contains the dos and don'ts that referees must know well and by understanding the tactics with which the game is played. Refereeing the maul would then be better and lead to better rugby.

Safety is paramount and attempts to collapse, drag out, lift legs and grab heads must be stopped and / or penalised. Players must stay on their feet and although Law 17.2 (b) permits the ball carrier to go to ground, a player on the ground in a maul is at risk of injury and the whistle would be the best way to protect that player.



Visualising a maul that occurred in a game you recently refereed, considering how you refereed it and whether, on reflection, you would do it differently is a good way to improve performance.

The attendance at this meeting was an improvement on recent occasions but still disappointing in that many active referees were not there.

These training sessions are vital to our pursuit of better refereeing. Improvement makes the task more enjoyable. Sharing experiences, problems and solutions on these occasions

with colleagues at the same level are also mutually beneficial.

Our President, keen to see this happen, has plans in mind and future monthly meetings could be structured to facilitate this.

## CHANGING THE VERNACULAR

Mike Bragg

### THE LAWS IN 1930

These definitions are a small selection taken “word for word” from the Glossary of Rugby Terms in the News Chronicle Dictionary, 1930 Edition. The author is a Mr John Hughes a New South Wales International Forward 1906-12 ( Australian Rugby Union did not come into being until after World War 2).

Note the Field Goal – one hopes a player’s head was not mistaken for the ball – perhaps the reason why, as the author notes, this had become obsolete. And it seems that, in those days, when a player was tackled he was required to place the ball in front of him!

**“All On”** Shouted by a player when he has put the rest of his own team ‘on-side’. The shout must not be raised while any of these are still offside, under penalty of a free kick.

**“Down”** When a player is held he may call “Down” to signify the same. He is not obliged to call, but when tackled he must at once put the ball fairly down between himself and his opponents goal-line.

**“Field Goal”** To score a goal by kicking, whilst it is in play, a ball bouncing or on the ground in the field of play over the cross-bar without touching it with the hands. Four points. (Obsolete)

**“Forwards”** Those players in a team who take part in scrum work (or are liable to do so). Opposed to backs. Usually eight in number. The New Zealanders play seven forwards and a ‘wing’ forward.

**“Jink, To”** (a) Slang synonym for tricking an opponent; (b) jumping about preparatory to dodging or swerving, or with the object of feinting.

**“Lock”** (a) In the New Zealand formation, the forward in the second row who holds together the two hookers. (b) When a forward, more especially in the front row, grips another of his side in the scrum sufficiently tightly to prevent opponents pushing through them, he is said to “lock”.

**“Opening, To make an”** When a player draws the opposition onto himself then passes the ball to one of his own side more advantageously placed.

**“Placer”** A player who places the ball on the ground for a place kick.

**“Rover”** An outside with no fixed position – usually plays near the scrum.

**“Rush, A”** Generally used of forwards coming down in a body in the open dribbling the ball.

**“Save, to”** To fall on the ball, thereby to stop a rush of the opposing forwards.

**“Throw Out (of touch)”** When the ball has gone into touch it is brought back into play by a player of the side to which it belongs throwing in into the field of play – from the place where it went into touch – so it may alight at right angles to the touchline.

**“Winging (a winger)”** Used of a forward who is doing little or no scrum work.

Comment:

Match Officials should study the Definition sections in the current Law Book to help them understand where to find information about individual laws and clarification about how each of them should be interpreted and applied.

However, the Law Book does not contain definitions of other words/terms that have been added to Rugby’s vernacular such as **Jackal, Neck Roll, Choke Tackle, Truck and Trailer, Through the Gate, Phases, Popping and Materiality.**

Match Officials should keep up to date with the developing jargon and so maintain their understanding of the game.

## CHANGING BEHAVIOUR

Post match self analysis takes many forms. It is a process that referees are encouraged to adopt as a way of becoming better referees. Ben Whyall does and has his own criteria. He asks himself three questions



1. Did I referee safely?
2. Did the players enjoy the game?
3. Did my refereeing affect the final result?

Any negative answer makes him review his performance and work out how to correct errors be they positional, communicative or managerial.

In an admirable and open manner, he admitted to colleagues that he had awarded tens of penalties in a match between Renegades and Cambridge 3. He acknowledged that he had been too lenient in dealing with persistent offences and should have applied more appropriate sanctions (e g yellow card) sooner. His game management had not been good enough.

To yourself be true. Ben was and is determined to change his behaviour.



## CHANGE OF COLOUR



### BEING SMART IS NOT ENOUGH

“A smart man makes a mistake, learns from it, and never makes that mistake again. But a wise man finds a smart man and learns from him how to avoid the mistake altogether”.

David Tyrrell, Cy Philp, Stuart Graveston, Calum Worsley and Spike Dewing are shown here smartly turned out.

They are also wise men who learn from each other as CUDRRS referees must do to achieve that Better Refereeing for Better Rugby mission.



CUDRRS' referees stand out from the rest on the pitch wherever they go in the County, be it at Newmarket, Saffron Walden, Cambridge, Ely or Wisbech. There are other affiliated clubs but not all with recent photos available.

The regular issue of kit ensures they “look” the part (smart/competent) in addition to “playing” their part in the match.

Affiliated clubs have acknowledged that the charges they pay to CUDRRS for match officials whenever they need them, does provide them with better referees and better dressed ones into the bargain. Long may that continue.

## CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Any change in Rugby that improves the safety of players, especially young ones, is a change for the better.

Therefore, the RFU initiative under the title Rugby Safe is to be welcomed. It is a programme that overarches the RFU player safety and wellbeing programme which supports clubs, schools, colleges, universities and participants at all levels of the game. It has five different strands all of which contribute and provide input to how the game should be played and managed to ensure that rugby is as safe as possible.

There was an embarrassing silence at the February meeting when John Widdowson asked the assembled group of rugby-philes what they knew about it. That included your red faced editor.



Why the embarrassment? The RFU states that the quality and behaviour of coaches and match officials is the single most effective factor in preventing injury. Therefore, Rugby Safe should be of concern to us and we should be familiar with its purpose and how we are expected to contribute to achieving its objectives.

If you go on the internet, to <http://www.englandrugby.com/rugbysafe/>, you can read all about it and download a booklet which provides an overview and further information.

High quality coaching, officiating and first aid / immediate care support all contribute to reducing the risk of injury occurring. Therefore it is important that individuals in such roles keep up to date with training and information on safe practice both on and off the pitch. Education and Development programmes are available.

So that the RFU can take an active role aiding in the care and rehabilitation of catastrophically injured players, it is vital that the RFU is notified of all injuries that qualify in the reportable category.

Reportable injury events are defined as:

An injury which results in the player being admitted to a hospital (this does not include those that attend an Accident or Emergency Department and are allowed home from there).

The player's club or school is responsible for submitting the report but CUDRRS referees are advised to make their own notes when a player is seriously injured and is taken to hospital. They may be called upon to be a witness in insurance claims or legal action.

Reducing the risk of injury is concomitant with refereeing for CUDRRS. Taking no chances and removing players with suspected of being concussed is responsible refereeing. January's issue of **CONTACT** focussed on safety issues and it is not over doing it to stress again the importance of refereeing safely.



## CHANGING GEAR

Determined to realise their personal potential and ambition, these seven match officials have been selected as CUDRRS first Development Group. The intensity of their training will step up a gear.



The Magnificent Seven here are Joe McWilliams, Calum Worsley, Luigi Murton, Pat Chalkin and Guy Mulley in the back row with Ben Coady and Stuart Graveston up front.

Thomas Northcote is also a member of the Group but could not make this session.

At the February meeting, they began their search for more knowledge of law and refereeing skills because they wish change their grading to higher levels.

John Widdowson, Area MODO, outlined for them the journey on which they have decided to embark. It will require their total commitment and CUDRRS support. **CONTACT** wishes them every success.

There is still a chance for other referees to join them. If you are interested and keen to make the most of your talents, all you have to do is ask a member of the Management Group.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

With three of the Management Group retiring from office at the end of this season, the Society needs to find their replacements as soon as possible. One of the vacancies has been covered but the posts of Honorary Secretary and Training and Development Manager remain to filled.

Could you

- Provide an efficient administration service for the society and ensure it functions smoothly.

- Be the main communication link between outside bodies and the society.

- Manage and record all society correspondence and maintain the records of club membership.

- Organise the AGM and Management Committee prepare agendas, paperwork and take minutes.

If so, please speak to David Tyrrell and find out more about the Secretary's job, then volunteer.

Could you

- Identify the training and development needs of the society's match officials

- Arrange appropriate training courses and sessions to fill these needs.

- Contribute to the management of the society.

If so, please speak with Dave Howell, find out more about the T and D role and then volunteer.

The society cannot function at its best unless it has a full guard on duty. This is an appeal to those of our members who have administrative and managerial skills to come forward. **Your society needs YOU.**

## CHANGES IN AGE GRADE RUGBY



This issue is accompanied by a table that summarises the changes made to the law variations introduced for Age Grade Rugby in August 2016.

It has been produced by a team of referee members led by Guy Mulley who has set it out in Excel.

Thanks are due to Guy and his colleagues David Tyrrell, John Hanlon, Martin Dixon, Alun Bedding and Stuart Graveston.

The table will also be placed on the society's website.

Full details can be found on the RFU website <http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/regulations/>

**CONTACT** is compiled and edited by Michael Dimambro, Honorary Member of CUDRRS.

Contributions from all in the Society and its customers are welcomed and invited.

The text and photographic contributions of Mike Bragg and Peter Haigh are acknowledged.

Please send your comments, views etc by email to:

[michael.dimambro@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.dimambro@ntlworld.com) or telephone **01223 564459**.