

Cambridge
University and
District Rugby
Referees' Society
Formed 1946



CONTACT

Keeping You In Touch

Better Refereeing for Better Rugby



March
2017

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 7th April

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

Guest Speaker



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

VISIT

CUDRRS' website
www.cambsref.co.uk

UNDERSTANDING THE GAME

CONFUSED.COM

There was an Irishman, South African and an Englishman who dreamed up a tactic for Italians to confuse a team of Englishmen led by an Australian. It created an international incident and led to claims that playing within the laws was unfair and the castigation of the English team for being too slow to work things out. It was like Roald Dahl's *Tales of the Unexpected* that revealed a serious lack of understanding the game and the Laws.

Forza Italia! Post match, Sergio Pariesse said " Abbiamo messo il gatto tra i piccioni. We put the cat amongst the pigeons".

The Italian minnows certainly did that to England at Twickenham. Their tactic of not contesting the rucks certainly bamboozled the home team. So much so, that the RFU has issued a special update on the Tackle / Ruck – 03/03/2017.

It has been posted on our website but is detailed on Page 2 of this issue. Coincidentally, the topic chosen for our March meeting was Understanding the Game. How appropriate?

Rugby has been subject to constant change since 1995 as the professional game has dictated its course and ignored the Laws to suit themselves. The powers that be have acquiesced to this, seemingly being more interested in the growth of income through the gate rather than the growth of the game through the grassroots.

So how can we ever understand everything about a changing game over which we at our level have little control? We can at least try to keep up with it and if possible keep ahead of it. We do have contacts at international and Premiership levels to keep us informed.

As match officials, we need to have more than just a working knowledge of the game and the Laws. A working level of knowledge is only sufficient to make a thing work without any deeper understanding of why it does, or of how to fix it if it breaks down.

Whilst a working knowledge of the game of Rugby would give us a degree of competence to get by, we need a higher level of knowledge to referee a game with a positive and proactive approach and thereby progress up the ladder.

You're never too old to learn and CUDRRS provides learning opportunities for its young and old members alike. Read the Thought for the Month and ask yourself whether you are a winner. If, as a match official, you have undeveloped talent that with CUDRRS help could be realised to improve your skill level, then frequent attendance at our monthly meetings is one way to do it.

In addition, you could join our Referees with Ambition and Potential Group, a comprehensive and coordinated process to fully realise latent talent and give personal satisfaction.

Referees at our level are not always made aware beforehand what a team might have planned to happen during a match. With a detailed Understanding of the Game they will find it easier to cope with when it does. We aim to train referees to see what is right and leave well alone, see what is wrong and know why and how to correct it and promptly.

Instead of penalising straightaway, they patiently explain and offer a bit of advice. They eliminate the source of frustration that players feel when things go wrong. They will insist the Laws are observed. If necessary, as a last resort, they will end a player's participation in the match and do this soon enough to have a beneficial impact on the standard of play.

That's better refereeing for better rugby. Increase your understanding of it.

Editor

TACKLE AND RUCK UPDATE

Following the England v Italy Six Nations game at the end of February, the RFU Match Official Development Manager has distributed a special update. Referee Society Secretaries have been asked to inform its officials.

Michael D Patz has written

"The following has been sent out to all National 1 and 2 Clubs so they are aware that we discussions have been had and how things will be managed going forward. The Premiership and Championship clubs have received exactly the same.

According to Law 16: The definition of a ruck is a phase of play where one or more players from each team, who are on their feet, in physical contact, close around the ball on the ground. Open play has ended.

In view of the England v Italy Six Nations game at the weekend, where one or both teams decided not to compete at the breakdown, we have discussed this issue within our referee groups and we will be taking the following approach this weekend: The referees will not on every occasion call 'tackle only' or 'ruck'. If a player runs around the breakdown and a ruck has been formed, the referee will either PK that player or play advantage and will not be telling the player to go back.

If an AR calls midfield offside against a defender, the referee can respond by 'tackle only' therefore it is play on. I would also like to bring to your attention that the player acting as number 9 cannot be tackled or have a kick charged down by players on the wrong side at a 'tackle only' situation. Also attached are some further notes to help your members prepare for their next game and to build a better understanding with coaches and players.

Yours in ref'ing,

Tackle Only Messages

Us – Consistent, Calm, don't shoot the messenger – 'Professional'

1. Know the law
2. Practice Pictures – e.g. England v Italy
3. Consistent Comm's – Succinct, not a commentary
4. We are not going to "call players back" if a ruck forms and they are offside

Other Areas to Consider

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Players voluntarily to ground | |
| 2. Tackle only | a. Can't play the 9 unless from own side
b. Beware players pulling in defenders
c. If the 9 runs into a player looking for a penalty – NOT a penalty
d. Charge down – can't interfere as law above |
| Ruck | Two players in contact/on feet/over the ball |
| Communication | There will be times when referees will use "Ruck", "Tackle" as normal to clarify when there is an offside line |

PETER EVELEIGH TROPHY

The Peter Eveleigh Trophy was instituted by CUDRRS in 2003 in memory of a top referee with the London Society who joined us when he and his wife Betty, moved into Cambridgeshire in 1998.

It was Peter who set up the system of advising and grading that our society seriously lacked to ensure our referees progressed as their abilities allowed. He made a significant contribution to CUDRRS in the few years that he was with us.

The award is given to the member who in the opinion of the rest of the membership has contributed the most to the society during the season. Their opinion is expressed in a vote.

Charles Osbourn is coordinating the voting for the this season as Secretary Tyrrell is down under visiting family. David found time to observe upside down Rugby between Queensland Reds and Canterbury Crusaders. His experience should provide an interesting tale for CONTACT's columns.

Charles sent an email to members on 2nd March inviting nominations by return. Unless you have already done so, please reply to Charles straight away or by Friday 17th March at the latest.

CONGRATULATIONS

Pat Chalkin is a member of our Referees with Ambition Group along with Stuart Graveston, Guy Mulley and Joe McWilliams. He has been upgraded to Level 11.

With continuing personal determination and commitment and CUDRRS help under Jon Evans mentorship, the four of them will surely realise even more of their potential. Well done.



FROM THE NEWS DESK



The March meeting was attended by thirty, or should that be thirsty members as Ben Whyall kept complaining about the heat.

The session featured the Continuous Match Official Development module "Understanding the Game". It was presented by **John Widdowson**, the Area MODO, who in a thought provoking hour of group working caused CUDRRS match officials to examine how well they connected the Principles of Play to how they applied the Laws. More about the session on the following page.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGES RUGBY

Next season, colleges will play their fixtures on Saturdays. This has been agreed with the realisation that it will place an added burden on CUDRRS. The Cambridge University RFU has promised to participate in the England Rugby Young Match Official (YMO) programme which was launched to encourage more young people aged 14-24 to get into rugby officiating. It is hoped that this will attract more university students to take up the whistle and make college rugby self sufficient in referees. The participants will be monitored and some may become available for other CUDRRS appointments.



John Widdowson presented **Ben Coady**, **Luigi Murton** and **Calum Worsley** with the first elements of the YMO kit that the RFU are providing for the participants on the programme.

Calum insisted that he was only 22 and was therefore eligible to take part.

They will be expected to keep a log of their progress.

We have both a Referees with Potential and Referees with Ambition Groups whose development needs will be different. These three have potential that the Society is determined to realise under the guidance of Charles Osbourn.

WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK



Attending their first CUDRRS meeting, fresh from the ELRA Level 2 course held at Cantabrigians RFC last month, were this trio.

From left to right **Matt Cooper** of Newmarket and **Rolando Pesci** and **Richard Cowley** from Renegades.

It was a pleasure to see **Tim O'Connell** back in the fold and also to say hello again to **Alex Woolley**, seemingly taller and now thickly bearded since he left us a couple of seasons ago.

CONTACT wishes them all very happy times with CUDRRS.

And there's more.



We welcomed another Kiwi to our ranks. **Chelsea Gurr** is from New Zealand's South Island and follows Mike Arbuckle and Glenn Jackson from North Island.

Chelsea started refereeing in 2003 as a year 12 student at Nelson College for Girls and continued to develop her career while studying in North Harbour. She then joined Canterbury Rugby Referees Association. Her father, Paul, is a referee too with Nelson Bays.

Chelsea is highly thought of in the Land of the Long White Cloud and has refereed the Women's Rugby World Cup Sevens circuit in Hong Kong and Moscow and in the top level of senior men's rugby in Christchurch.

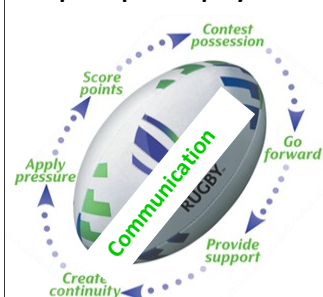
She is currently working for Greene King in Bury St Edmunds.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

That was the question posed to those at the society's March 2017 meeting by MODO John Widdowson. The "it", of course, was the game of Rugby Union and the part CUDRRS plays in it.

There then followed an examination of how well they understood the game and the interaction between the Principles of Play and the Principles of Refereeing. It involved the identification of the specific Laws that applied to each of the principles of play. Awareness of which law or laws apply to any particular situation of play enables the referee to anticipate events and thus be prepared to make the correct decision, with confidence.

The principles of play



Principles of Refereeing – SELL

Safety
Enjoyment
Law
Learning

Desired Outcomes of session

Establish an understanding of "principles of play"
Consider the practical application of Law in relation to the principles
Develop an understanding of how teams use them
Consider how referees should plan to officiate based on the principles

It is hoped that details of this module will be made available on the web in due course. In the meantime, **CONTACT** provides this taster of things to come.

Which one law covers the way a match should be played? Law 7– Mode of play

Which laws apply to Contest for Possession? Laws 13, 19 and 20.

Which laws concern Going Forward? Laws 10, 11 and 12.

Which laws provide for Continuity? Laws 8, 11, 15, 16 and 17.

Which laws relate to Applying Pressure? Laws 12 and 18.

Readers, especially active match officials, are invited to think about this allocation of the laws to the principles of play and visualise applying them in a match. For example, a high kick is about to be fielded by a player in their own 22. There is no teammate in support. To relieve pressure the likelihood is that he will make a Mark. Brain in gear, the referee makes sure he is in position to award a fair catch and manage the free kick.

A team that is intent on playing running rugby and is able to recycle the ball quickly at the breakdown expects, and reasonably so, that the referee will secure the space and time for them to use possession by controlling offside.

Safety is a prerequisite for match officials and currently the big safety concern is Concussion. The meeting was reminded of the four "Rs", Recognise, Remove, Recover and Return. The Head Injury Assessment protocol does not operate in the Community Game. If a referee recognises that a player is concussed, that player must be removed from the field of play and must not take any further part in the game. Law 3.10 provides the authority and power for the referee to act in the interest of the wellbeing of such players and can be quoted to any coach who attempts to persuade the referee to do otherwise.

If you wish to improve your awareness about concussion then there is a course and test you can take on this link

<http://www.englandrugbyfiles.com/concussion/courses/match-officials>

It comes with a recommendation from Spike Dewing who passed the test.

This was a splendid session that supports our mission to provide better refereeing for better rugby. More please!

WHY RUGBY NEEDS YOUNG REFEREES

This article has been based on what appears on the RFU website about the Young Match Officials programme that some of our members have joined.

Quote : "Rugby, in common with many sports, has a majority of referees in the 24 to 50 age bracket. Most are in the upper age range and, while recruiting from the ranks of former, injured or retiring players is still essential, it is clear that the sport must find, train, mentor and retain referees aged 14 to 24. This programme aims to engage 14-24's in Match Officiating.

The programme aims to recruit young officials to the game and develop them as individuals, whilst also increasing the options they have to participate within the game and sustain the future of our sport.

School or house matches, university and college games, as well as mini and junior matches and festivals, benefit hugely from having young officials taking charge. Some will go on to referee adult games and those who enjoy the role will want to continue refereeing into adulthood".

The transfer of Colleges Rugby will add to our workload on Saturdays and participation in this programme is a way for CUDRRS to maintain its ability to provide referees for all matches played in our area from Under 13 upwards.

Current members should take the opportunity when it presents itself to encourage youngsters to give refereeing a try and assure them that there is a comprehensive pathway provided for them to get that extra bit of enjoyment from the game.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE



Stuart Graveston, our Colleges Appointment Secretary, has informed **CONTACT** about the outcome of this season's Fair Play Trophy competition.

"They made a mess of announcing winners at the Oscars but this won't be the case with this year's Fair Play Trophy. The trophy is awarded to the college which in league matches has consistently shown a positive approach to playing the game - through sportsmanship, respect for their opponents and respect for the referee. in other words by adopting the core values of the game.

The captain of the winning side is invited as a guest to the CUDRRS annual dinner held in Christ's College on Friday 7th April. I am pleased to announce that the winners this year are **Robinson College**, who were also winners in 2013-14.

Founded in 1977, Robinson is the newest of the Cambridge colleges, unique in being the only one to have been intended, from its inception, for both male and female undergraduate and graduate students. It is also the college from which Martin Dixon, then a Senior Tutor there, was recruited to train as a referee twenty years ago.

CONTACT congratulates them both on jobs well done.

FAREWELL OLD PAL



During my fifty years involvement with Cambridgeshire Rugby I have met many characters. They are the salt of the earth, people you can rely upon to be straightforward and dedicated. I am proud to call them "friends".

One such was Mike Cooke, known at the Shelford club simply as "Cookie", who made an enormous contribution to his club, on and off the field. He has died at the age of 84.

Along with Mike Mills, they always welcomed me to the Davey Field whether I was there to coach, referee, assess or just as a spectator. We shared a love for Rugby, that is of the amateur kind, and a chat over a pint or two.

The pair of them are the epitome of the loyalty to club concept that for me is the very essence of Rugby. That sense of loyalty is based on what you can give to Rugby and not what you can get out of it. They certainly have given much to Shelford and are respected for it.

In the tribute paid to him on the Shelford website it says, "Cookie played for the Club for a number of years and was known as a tough character who players would rather have in their team than playing for the opposition. He was always kind to referees, to whom he was a constant source of sound advice and encouragement during games.

Mike Mills, who has known Cookie for 60 years, recalled playing with him for the 4th XV in a heated game when Cookie was warned by the referee 'for the intent in his eyes'".

That was preventive refereeing in action I would say and applied no doubt with a smile in the real spirit of grassroots rugby.

The tribute adds that "Even when seated in the stand, referees have continued to be blessed with Cookie's advice but they will now find it a little quieter". I can vouch for that as many a time I have been there with him trying to explain, not excuse, seemingly refereeing inconsistencies. I was never able to convince him that under Law 6. A. 4 referees are always right even when they are wrong.

It was Cookie who told me in 1994 when I was assessing the referee of the third team match that I should go and watch the teenager from Gloucestershire who was refereeing their first team game. I did and have done so for the past twenty years. That sixteen years old was Wayne Barnes.

Cookie was a true Club man who helped to make Shelford the club it is today. He will be greatly missed by them and by me. Requiescat in pace.

OUT OF THE PICTURE

At a monthly meeting, Rowan Kitt explained about the RFU/RFRU philosophy of the 'grey man' referee; an official who is effective yet anonymous. Wayne Barnes said something similar recently, in a pre-Six Nations interview, when he explained that he is happiest if the match report does not mention him at all. This is an appealing philosophy for the introvert referee and probably to the majority of CUDRRS referees, who go about their unpaid duties in a self-effacing way.

Evidence of this comes in a match report on the Shelford club's website of the Nomads game with Hertford last month. It said the game bubbled to a very tight finish and

"Credit to the referee too, for keeping the game free-flowing, and the fact that we hardly noticed him meant that he must have had a good game too! Well played to all involved."

One of the accompanying photos showed a glimpse of our referee up with the action yet discreetly positioned. Well done!

PETER'S PIX

CONTACT thanks Peter Haigh for his permission to use some of the action shots he has taken of CUDRRS refs in action in recent matches involving Renegades.



Tim O'Connell looks as sharp as ever at Shelford.

This Eastern Counties Greene King League Division Two West game between the first and third teams in the table currently ended in a 15 points each draw.

Table topping Renegades were disappointed at the result, a match they expected to win.



That's Rugby for you. And they shook hands after.



Roy Phillips, in military posture befitting an old soldier, signals a positive decision awarding a try at Cantabrigians without recourse to the TMO.

A monthly meeting regular, he understands the game and referees with confidence.



Joe McWilliams is on hand at Renegades to judge the correctness of the tackle.

Keen to progress, Joe is a member of our Referees with Ambition Group.

As his understanding of the game grows, he will have the opportunity to referee at higher levels.

"Success is where preparation and opportunity meet".

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.

Please send your comments, views etc by email to:
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