

THE WHISTLING BUSTARD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DORSET AND WILTS SOCIETY OF RUGBY UNION REFEREES

March 2008

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly Training Meetings will be held as follows:
DORSET at the Langton Arms on Mondays at 1930 hrs:

March 3: Tackle / Ruck.

WILTSHIRE at Devizes RFC on Thursdays at 1930 hrs:

March 6: Tackle / Ruck.

Sessions will be based upon CRDA modules.

LAW POSERS

1. Red are attacking, but knock on 7m from Blue goal line, 3m from touch, and the ball travels forward and hits the corner post, rebounds into the in goal area, where Blue touch down.

2. Red kick off into a stiff breeze. The ball travels 2m over the 10m line, is blown back, a Red player catches the ball, and sets off down field.

3. Red drop out, but miskick the ball, which does not cross the 22m line. A Blue player, who was on his side of the 22m line when the ball was kicked, crosses the 22m line, picks up the ball, and sets off towards the Red goal line.

REFEREES' and REFEREE COACHES' COURSES

Please note the changes from the last Newsletter.

ENTRY LEVEL REFEREE AWARD

The schedule is appended to this Newsletter.

CONTINUOUS REFEREE DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The course scheduled for 18 November was cancelled, due to a shortage of attendees. I will run another in the New Year, if sufficient referees want to come.

Please contact me.

These Sundays are intended for those who are unable to attend monthly Training Meetings, where much of the course material will be covered over the next year or so.

TOUCH JUDGE COURSES

I have had a number of enquiries, and will run another one in April. Please let me know of any more volunteers.

SOCIETY REFEREE COACH/ADVISER COURSES: Stephen Dowse will arrange courses if necessary.

WESSEX FEDERATION TRAINING DAY

This will be held at Frome RFC on Sunday 11 May, 1000 to 1600, for senior referees and all advisers. Please put this one in your diary.

The programme will include talks by Graeme Charters, Chairman of the Rugby Football Referees' Union, and Richard Glynne-Jones, RFU Referee Manager, as well as a talk on Women's Rugby.

All senior referees, and advisers from Somerset and Dorset & Wilts Societies, together with Local Combined Services and/or dual-membership advisers and referees are asked to attend.

In addition one representative from each Constituent Body, the Chairmen Somerset and Dorset & Wilts Coaching Committees, the SW Referee Development Manager (Steve Harland), the Dorset, Wilts and Somerset Rugby Development Officers and the RFU Training & Education Officer (Andy Melrose) will be invited.

Provisional Programme:

1000-1030	Arrival and book in
1030-1115 Session 1	Somerset Society
Presentation	
1120-1205 Session 2	Dorset & Wilts Society
Presentation	
1210-1300 Session 3	RFUW Presentation
1300-1400	Buffet lunch
1400-1445 Session 4	Chairman RFUR
Presentation, Graeme Charters	
1450-1530 Session 5	RFU Referee Manager
Presentation, Richard Glynne-Jones	
1535-1600	Conclusion and Summary
1600 approx	Depart

Please Book in by individual email, or phone to Alan Avery direct by Friday 2 May 2008.

SOCIETY DINNER WARNING ORDER

This will be held at Salisbury RFC on Friday 13 June 2008. Details will follow in due course, but please put this date in your diary.

SHIRTS

I have a stock of Society:

Polo Shirts: All sizes, cost £15.00.

Track Suits: All sizes, cost £20.00.

Red/Black Shirts: M and L only, free.

Royal Navy Blue/Powder Blue: XL, XXL, XXXL, free.

I will bring stocks to Training Meetings.

Colin Parks has:

Ties £7.80.

Blazer/Shirt badges £1.20

ANSWERS TO LAW POSERS

1. Scrum to Blue, 5m from touch and 7m from the goal line.
2. Play on.
3. Play on.

Any suggestions for future content to:

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EXPERIMENTAL LAW VARIATIONS SUPER 14

While in Cape Town last month, I was able to watch a Super 14 game. They were using the Experimental Law variations below. In the light of recent queries as to whether they will be adopted, and what would be the effect, I give you my comments, for what they are worth.

The Variations.

Posts and flags around the field

- Posts and flags around the field (ARC variation)

a. Corner posts will be positioned at the outside junction of the goal line and the touch line.

i. If a player is in possession of the ball and touches a corner post he **will not** be in touch unless he touches the touchline or the ground beyond the touchline.

ii. If the ball is not being carried by a player and it touches the corner post the ball **will not** be deemed to be touch in goal.

Inside the 22 metre line

- When a defending player receives the ball outside the 22 metre line and passes, puts or takes the ball back inside the 22, the following can occur.

a. If the ball is then kicked directly into touch, the lineout is in line with where the ball was kicked.

b. If a tackle, ruck or maul is subsequently formed and the ball is then kicked directly into touch, the lineout is where the ball crossed the touch line.

Lineout

- On a quick throw in, the ball can be thrown straight or backwards towards the defenders goal line, but not forward towards the opposition goal line.

- Pre-gripping, lifting and using another team mate to lever is allowed.

Tackle and Ruck

- Players entering the breakdown area must do so through the gate. **RIGIDLY**

APPLIED

- Immediately the tackle occurs there are offside lines.

- If the ball is unplayable at a tackle or ruck, the side that did not take the ball into contact will receive a Free Kick.

Maul

- If a maul becomes unplayable, the team not in possession at the start of the maul receives a Free Kick.

Scrum

- The offside line for players who are not in the scrum and who are not the teams' scrum half, is 5 metres behind the hindmost foot of the scrum.

Sanctions

- For all offences other than offside, not entering through the gate, and Law 10-Foul Play, the sanction is a Free Kick.

Match Stats.

EVENT	AWARDED TO BLACK FIRST HALF	AWARDED TO BLACK SECOND HALF	AWARDED TO BLUE FIRST HALF	AWARDED TO BLUE SECOND HALF
SCRUMS	7	0	2	3
LINEOUTS	6	7	6	3
FREE KICKS	2	9	3	9
PENALTIES	6	4	0	4
SCORING SEQUENCE (PTS)	3,3,3	0	5/2, 3	3,3

Caveats.

This was the first game of the season for the players and referee. I was rarely able to determine the reason for an award, partly because of my viewing position, and partly because the secondary signals given by the referee were often not clear.

This is only one game, and is only my personal view of the proceedings. Many other observers may well have come to different conclusions.

Comments.

The one try was as a result of an error by the attacking side, followed almost immediately by an error by the defending side. Otherwise, thrilling running, and attackers running into space, was rarely seen.

No pre-gripping in the lineout seen; no visible change. A free kick for not straight may be OK on a still day in a big stadium, but what about N**** D***** 3rds with a gale blowing right down the pitch?

Non-participants at the scrum being 5m back seemed to have little effect.

The number of scrums was reduced, lineouts and penalties about what one might expect, but 24 free kicks, of which 7 were taken as scrums (not included in scrums totals) still produced a total number of stoppages which was quite high.

At the breakdown, the overall impression that I got was that the side who did not take the ball in were prepared to handle, not release etc, because the sanction was only a free kick, and the referee did not use the option of raising the ante for repeated offences, nor for offences in the Red Zone.

While free kicks did speed the game up, attackers were rarely sufficiently organised to exploit the situation; result was another thumping tackle, and slow ball from the breakdown.

A press comment on this game was, roughly “neither the players nor the referee understood the variations”.

As usual, other press comments, on this and other games, varied from ”good” to “bad” via “wait and see”.

Portions of other games seen on television were a bit better. However, there were more thrills and movement in Saracens v Harlequins (and Tony Spreadbury) under the “old” laws.

ELRA Course Schedule - Dorset & Wilts

Date (2008)	Days of Week	Location
9 th & 16 th Mar	Sunday and Sunday	North Dorset RFC
Other County Courses* *open to all	See website: RFU Home/Community Rugby/Referee&Officiate/Courses/Find a Course/ ELRA Course Calendar	
FOR ALL COURSES	<p>TIMINGS: 9:30am – 4:30pm</p> <p>COST: £40 (includes both days)</p> <p>Application forms downloadable from www.rfu.com/communityrugby which should be returned at least 10 days before the course in order for individual materials to be dispatched.</p> <p>Forms should be returned to Lindsay Piper Referee Department, Rugby House, Rugby Road, Twickenham, TW1 1DS</p>	