

THE WHISTLING BUSTARD

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

November 2007

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

November 5: Scrum.

February 4: Maul.

March 3: Tackle / Ruck.

WILTSHIRE at Devizes RFC on Thursdays at 1930 hrs:

November 8: Scrum.

Wiltshire meetings have been poorly attended in the past, although in October we had 16. Your committee will be reviewing future options depending upon attendance this autumn.

Joint Meetings will be held:

December 3 at Salisbury RFC. Rob Clilverd, who is the Dorset and Wilts Chair of Coach Development will talk to us.

January 14 at 1930 at Salisbury RFC. Andy Melrose and Steve Harland will talk to us.

PROCEDURES TO BECOME AN RFU REFEREE

I have appended an outline of the way in which referees progress during their initial two or three years. Those of you just starting, or who are considering taking your refereeing a stage further, should read this.

OBSERVER'S OBSERVATIONS

Some minor points from an old, one-eyed, wizened, Snow White gave me the afternoon off, person who looked at your game from the wrong end of a visually impaired telescope.

An U-16 school game. A player seriously F-ing and Blinding. Within 20 seconds he was replaced by the master in charge. Well done. Captains / masters are responsible for discipline.

An U-13 school game. A 14 year old referee. One side losing comprehensively, and not retreating 10m at penalties. Master in charge of losing team

telling referee what to do, rather than telling his team what to do. Not as helpful.

School and Adult lineout. Pre-gripping below the waist is illegal. It is easy to spot, if you bother to look. If a supporter has hold of a jumper's shorts at the bottom of the shorts, rather than at the waistband, before the ball is thrown in, it is ILLEGAL.

CONTEXTUAL JUDGEMENT

Just to get you all thinking, instead of straight law questions.

Contextual Judgement is defined as the ability of the referee to make a decision based on what is in front of them, and not necessarily what the law book says.

Consider the following situation.

Blue player has been tackled just short of Red goal line. A mess develops. Players on both sides are on the ground. A Blue player, on his feet, who has approached through the gate, picks up the ball, goes forward, and when he is 1m from the goal line, a Red player on the ground attempts to pull the ball from his grasp, preventing a try.

You have a range of possible decisions, some of which are covered by the law book, others not:

- Play on;
- Scrum, 5m, Blue ball;
- Penalty to Blue, 5m out, with or without a Yellow Card;
- Penalty try to Blue, with or without a Yellow Card;

What would your likely decision be under the following circumstances?

- 5 minutes to go in an U-13 game, Blue leading by 30 points, Red having shown only a rudimentary knowledge of the laws throughout the game, but have responded to your efforts to explain what they must do;
- First 5 minutes of a Level 6 game, first offence, no score;
- Last 5 minutes of Level 6 game, scores equal, Blue having pressed for 3 minutes, Red having given away 3 penalties in similar situations.

There is of course no "approved" answer.

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

At Devizes RFC on 18 November.

Morning (1000):

Law and Principles of Refereeing

Understanding the Game

Afternoon (1330):

Scrum

Tackle / Ruck

Would those who wish to take the Award please complete the form attached to the end of the Whistling Bustard.

TOUCH JUDGE: I will run two courses on **Sunday 25 November at Devizes RFC.**

Club Touch Judge 1000-1230.

Aim of the Course

To give the Club Touch Judge knowledge of the law that will enable them to run touch, assisting the referee with signalling Touch, Touch-in-Goal and Kicks at Goal. The course is based on one module which explains the laws around Touch and Touch-in-Goal. The module is followed by a short tick box examination to test delegates' learning and understanding.

Society Touch Judge 1330 -1630

Aim of the Course

The course is aimed at Referee Society members who wish to develop their skills as a Touch Judge. The course is based on seven modules, each of which will be led interactively by the tutor. Module

One is followed by a short tick box examination to test delegates' learning and understanding.

Newly qualified referees will benefit greatly from the latter. If Club Touch judges wish to attend the latter, so much the better.

Nominations to me please.

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

SHIRTS

I have a stock of Society:

Polo Shirts: All sizes, cost £15.00.

Track Suits: XXL and XL only, cost £20.00.

Red Shirts: M and L only, free.

Blue Shirts: S only, free.

More shirts and track suits have been ordered.

I will bring stocks to Training Meetings.

Colin Parks has:

Ties £7.80.

Blazer/Shirt badges £1.20

CRB CHECKS

Many thanks for the swift response to the recent trawl and check on current clearances.

Alan and I will process forms at training meetings.

Any suggestions for future content to:

Richard Shore

4 Kingsley Close

Bournemouth

Dorset BH6 4JQ

Tel: 01202 426524

shore.rg@virgin.net

Procedures to Become an RFU Referee

Dorset & Wilts Society of RFU Referees

(12 October 2007 revise)

Step 1 - Training – ELRA 1 & 2 (skip to Step 2 if you have already done this, or have qualified with Foundation Courses 1 and 2 within the last three years and have refereed since)

Go to the RFU Home website and click on the Community, Referee, Courses and ELRA links. Find a course which suits you on the course list – you are able to attend courses in other districts.

Register online on the RFU Home website for the next ELRA course in the relevant district, read the instructions carefully. Note the requirement for 10 days notice before a course to enable documentation to be sent to you. The fee is £40, which covers both sessions:-

- 2 full days (9:30 - 4:00)
- Programme covers:
 - Referee Roles, Responsibilities and Attitudes
 - Judgement and Materiality
 - Safety
 - Communication and Positioning
 - Child Protection
 - Problem Areas/Theory into Practice
 - Game Management and Control
- Delivered through classroom, discussion and practical elements

You are not barred from attending other county courses - for the full ELRA Course calendar see Courses, Find a Course on the RFU Home website under Community Rugby. Complete the ELRA 1 & 2 Course and await your certificate.

Step 2 - Register with Dorset & Wilts Society (for ELRA 3 if you are ELRA 1 and 2 qualified)

Complete the Society Application Form available on the Society website at dorsetandwiltsrefs.org.uk/home.htm and send to the Hon Sec, Alan Avery by email on <alanavery@bournemouth-net.co.uk> or by post to him at: 24 Wetherby Close, Milborne St Andrew, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 OJN. He is on telephone 01258 837450.

You will be required to referee 5 games, one of which will be watched by an adviser who will certify your competence to referee, to complete ELRA 3.

You therefore also need to:-

- Send a monthly availability return (available on the D&W home website) by email to the Society Appointer <davidmasters77@hotmail.com> as soon as possible after ELRA 1 & 2 are completed. Include mid-week, Saturday and Sunday games. His telephone number is 01264 790035.
- Inform Stephen Dowse on <dowse@sdowse.fsnet.co.uk>, the Grading/Advising Officer (he is also our Chairman) of your requirement for an adviser/coach for at least one of your 5 ELRA 3 games. He is also on 07714 203209. He will allocate one for you, informing the Recruitment Officer. The adviser will contact you arrange the watching, advising and reporting process. For already qualified and graded referees, the adviser will provide confirmation of their level, competence and development needs. If you are a Service referee and you are able to officiate additionally on Wednesdays, you need to log in with Stephen Dowse, who is additionally the CSS and ARURS regional Appointment and Grading Secretary.

Step 3 – Further Development

You are largely responsible thereafter for your own self-critical development, but the Training Officer, Richard Shore, and allocated adviser are always available for specific help and guidance. Richard arranges monthly meetings at which vital aspects of refereeing are presented and discussed. You should also expect to be watched, advised and graded at least once a season by your own allocated adviser. The Whistling Bustard newsletter contains gems of information for training and development, as well as vital Society administration detail.

For those who have been refereeing for about two years or more, and who are generally graded at Levels 8 to 12, the RFU have produced a Continuous Referee Development Award. This is based on a number of separate modules, covering all aspects of refereeing; some modules may be done by distance learning, others in a classroom, led by a tutor. The classroom modules will be covered both on specific days, and at monthly training meetings. The award is not intended either to be completed in one bite, or as a pre-requirement for upgrading. The RFU are developing an online assessment for each module, for you to complete in your own time. The whole award may be done at your own pace, and may take two years to complete.

Useful Contacts

- **D&W SRFUR Recruitment/Retention Officer, Robin Miller:- (01747) 854765 or robin.miller4@btinternet.com**
- **RefDevO, Nigel Cowley:- 07894 783378 or nigelcowley@rfu.com (for ELRA)**
- **D&W SRFUR Training Officer, Richard Shore:- (01202) 426524 or shore.rg@virgin.net**
- **Website contacts:-**
 - **RFU:- <http://www.community-rugby.com>**
 - **dorsetandwiltsrefs.org.uk/home.htm – all Society contacts appear on the Home Page. Also see past and current copies of the Whistling Bustard newsletter, and dates/locations of monthly meetings. The site contains monthly availability forms and expense forms (you are entitled to 25p per mile) under the “Refereeing” link. Note that your annual £5 subscription (to cover towards insurance) is deducted from your pre-Christmas expenses claim form. You submit a second expenses form in April/ May at the season’s end.**

ELRA Course Schedule - Dorset & Wilts

Date (2007)	Days of Week	Location
11 and 18 November	Sundays	North Dorset RFC
15 and 16 December	Saturday and Sunday	Swindon 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>	

CONTINUOUS REFEREE DEVELOPMENT AWARD

NAME:

I wish to take the Continuous Referee Development Award.

I wish to attend one of the following sessions (please indicate which):

Sunday 18 November, Morning. Law and Principles of Refereeing
Understanding the Game

Sunday 18 November, Afternoon. Scrum
Tackle / Ruck