

THE WHISTLING BUSTARD

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

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August 2009

D&W Referees EGM- Mon 7 Sep 09 – Salisbury RFC

A Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the D&W Society of RFU Referees will be held at Salisbury RFC on Mon 7 Sep 09 commencing at 1930 hrs. As well as presenting audited accounts to the membership, members will be brought up to date with Law Changes and directives as they apply to the new season, be briefed on the arrangements for assessing/advising and any of changes to administrative procedures as they affect both Society and Referee.

Those members who have not yet received their free issue of the Orange Kit, or who wish to purchase additional kit, should let Mike Bland know, in advance of the meeting. Society kit will be available for issue/purchase as applicable.

In view of the fact that food will be ordered, members are asked to inform Alan Avery of their intention, or otherwise, to attend the EGM by Fri 4 Sep 09. Members should make every effort to attend.

Wessex Federation Advisor/Assessor/Referee Coach Seminar

A Referee Assessor/Advisor/Coach Seminar will be held at the Officer's Mess Headquarters Land Forces, Erskine Barracks Wilton Salisbury Wiltshire SP2 0AG on Sunday 13 September 2009 from 1000 to 1600 hrs. The seminar is aimed at current Assessors/Advisors and aspiring Assessors/Advisors and Referee Coaches as well as level 7 and above referees. A separate invitation will be made to those members considered suitable, either by age, experience or good looks to attend this Seminar. Members wishing to attend should pass their details to Dave Masters as soon as possible, but by 7 Sep 09 at the latest. A brief outline of the aims and objectives of the Seminar are shown below:

- Timings – 1000 to 1600 hrs – tea and coffee available from 0930 hrs – buffet lunch provided.
- Aim – to deliver
 - Updates on current RFU issues
 - Referee Developers Award – progression
 - Recruiting advisors/assessors and Referee coaches
 - Workshop Referee qualities using Panel/Group criteria and DVD clips (positives and negatives) as a guide to:
 - Develop/agree common understanding of qualities of level 6/7 referee
 - Develop/agree common understanding of qualities of level 8/9 referee.
 - Guidance to advisor/assessor/referee coaches for managing people and expectations
 - Any other outputs topics that Societies wish to cover
- Participants –
 - Current Society Advisors/Assessors.
 - Senior referees (either by age or experience) deemed suitable to take on the role of Advisor/assessor/referee coach.
 - Targeted audience invited by Societies – currently earmarked at 30 per Society but no upper limit other than to make sure that we can cope with the numbers attending.

Volunteers for forthcoming games – August 2009

Keith Peall is looking for volunteers for the following games:

15 Aug 09 Heineken 10s – at North Dorset

20 Aug 09 Dorchester v Weymouth - 19:15 KO

25 Aug 09 Swanage & Wareham v Wimborne - 19:00 KO

Members are asked to ensure that they provide Keith with their availability for the coming season in a timely fashion. Remember if you don't let Keith know when you are available he cannot appoint you to games.

Message from Nigel Cowley – Induction Officer

Calling all new and recently joined Referees!

Most of you will be aware that I am the Induction Officer for the Society. The Society would like **all newly ELRA qualified Referees to complete the ELRA Stage 3** process as part of their first steps on the refereeing ladder and thereby receive the Full Award from the RFU. ELRA qualified Referees who have already been graded by the Society do not need to complete the Stage 3 if they do not wish to do so. Although the Stage 3 is a useful method of developing your refereeing in the early stages it is not an absolute requirement.

The ELRA Stage 3 process works as follows:

- You complete ELRA Stages 1 & 2 under the guidance of David Masters (Training Officer)
- You join D&W Society
- Your details are passed to me by Alan Avery (Hon Sec)
- You pass your availability to Keith Peall (krpeall@yahoo.co.uk) (Appointments Secretary)
- The Society Appointments Secretary ensures the you are appointed to appropriate matches and are 'watched' in your first 5 matches by a Society Adviser as a safety check
- I will monitor your progress and assist in appointing to appropriate matches if necessary
- You should complete an ELRA Workbook Self-Analysis form after each match. This is a very useful way of building your self-confidence as a Referee and is recommended for all Referees at all stages of their 'career'. I am always available for advice on this should you need it.
- After you have completed 5 youth or adult matches you should complete the Summary Evaluation sheet and the Personal Development Plan in the ELRA Workbook and then contact me.
- You should then send all the forms + the D&W Adviser's Report to me for collation and I will then register you with the RFU at Twickenham for the Full Award

I am always available for a chat should you feel you need a friendly ear before or after a match so please don't hesitate to give me a call on 07894 783378.

Please let me know if you would like to complete the full ELRA Award.

Law Amendments 2009

The International Rugby Board (iRB) Council has ratified recommendations made by the iRB Rugby Committee and approved 10 of the 13 global Experimental Law Variations (ELVs) for adoption into the Laws of the Game. The recommendations were unanimously approved and the integrated set of Laws is to be implemented globally from 23rd May 2009 or from the start of the next domestic season where competitions transcend the implementation date.

The new Laws will apply to all domestic rugby in England with effect from 1st June 2009.

In addition to the suite of global ELVs, three Union-specific ELVs were also approved for integration into Law. These include the ability for a Union to implement a maximum 15-minute half time in matches under its jurisdiction.

As a consequence, the 2009 Law Book has now been rewritten and can be viewed at <http://www.irb.com/lawregulations/laws/index.html>.

The Law amendments can be found as **Appendix 1 and are detailed below:**

Appendix 1 - Law Amendments 2009 - ELVs Adopted into Law

The following ELVs are to be adopted into Law:

- Law 6 – Assistant Referees able to assist Referees in any way the Referee requires
- Law 19 – If a team puts the ball back in their own 22 and the ball is subsequently kicked directly into touch there is no gain in ground.
- Law 19 – A quick throw may be thrown in straight or towards the throwing team's goal line.
- Law 19 – The receiver at the lineout must be two metres back away from the lineout.
- Law 19 – The player who is in opposition to the player throwing in the ball must stand in the area between the five metre line and touch line and must be two metres from the line of touch and at least two metres from the lineout.
- Law 19 – Lineout players may pre-grip a jumper before the ball is thrown in.
- Law 19 – The lifting of lineout jumpers is permitted.
- Law 20 – Introduction of an offside line five metres behind the hindmost feet of the Scrum.
- Law 20 – Scrum half offside line at the Scrum.

Law 20 – The corner posts are no longer considered to be touch in goal except when the ball is grounded against the post.

Union-specific ELVs approved by Council

Unions may implement rolling substitutions at defined levels of the Game.

A Union having jurisdiction over a Game may implement a half time interval of not more than 15 minutes, but not at international level.

A Union may implement the Under 19 Scrum Law Variation at a defined level of the Game under its jurisdiction.

IRB Directives on Law 10

(b) Running in front of a ball carrier. A player must not intentionally move or stand in front of a team-mate carrying the ball thereby preventing opponents from tackling the current ball carrier or the opportunity to tackle potential ball carriers when they gain possession. **Penalty:** Penalty Kick

(c) Blocking the tackler. A player must not intentionally move or stand in a position that prevents an opponent from tackling a ball carrier. **Penalty:** Penalty Kick

RFU Guidance

- *At Society level, the main area of concern is likely to be at the lineout so when a referee briefs the front rows s/he should remind the props "when you lift the jumper make sure you have not moved into the gap when you bring him down – don't block". Keep it low key and put the responsibility where it belongs. At the top end of the game a referee might be forced to penalise right away whereas at lower levels the referee may have the opportunity at the first infraction to remind the props of their responsibilities without the application of a Penalty Kick. At Society level perhaps award a scrum to opposition for accidental offside*
- *Referee the game in front of you, not the game you watched on TV or read about in a training manual*

IRB Directives on Laws 15 and 16

Providing a player from either side on their feet after a tackle comply with all aspects of Law 15 and have their hands on the ball prior to contact with an opposition player on his feet, that player may continue with possession of the ball.

Any other players joining the player with his/her hands on the ball must not handle the ball in accordance with Law 16.4 (b). If the ball is not in possession of any player after a tackle and a ruck is formed players may not use their hands in accordance with Law 16.4 (b).

RFU Guidance

Our priorities remain 1. The Tackler 2. The Ball Carrier 3. Arriving Players. None of the above has changed. The Directive says - if a player on his feet has his hands on the ball at a tackle and players from either side bind around him then he does not have to release the ball.

General Points

- *If the player contesting the ball drops it (not forward) when other players have bound on to him then he cannot have a "second go" and calling "Ruck" or "Hands off" would be appropriate.*
- *We must be vigilant with arriving players at the tackle area when the ball is being contested as described above to ensure that they stay on their feet, enter via the "gate" so that we have a safe, fair contest as mentioned above.*
- *As with the ELVs of last year, we all may have to wait a few weeks of the season to see how the players at our level respond to the directives*

Key Messages

1. *Don't over complicate things – work with the players not against them.*
2. *Priorities remain same Tackler → Ball Carrier → Arriving Players*
3. *Accurately identify (i.e. know the responsibilities and rights of) the tackler, tackled & arriving players)*
4. *Reward players on feet*
5. *Referee's arrival is key – fitness and angles*

Dangerous Tackle

In 2007, the IRB Council approved a Laws Designated Members Ruling which essentially made it clear that tackles involving a player being lifted off the ground and tipped horizontally and were then either forced or dropped to the ground are illegal and constitute dangerous play.

At a subsequent IRB High Performance Referee Seminar at Lensbury referees were advised that for these types of tackles they were to start at red card as a sanction and work backwards.

Unfortunately these types of tackles are still being made and the purpose of this memorandum is to emphasize that they must be dealt with severely by referees and all those involved in the off-field disciplinary process.

This decision correctly highlights that the lifting of players in the tackle and then either forcing or dropping them to the ground is dangerous and must be dealt with severely.

To summarise, the possible scenarios when a tackler horizontally lifts a player off the ground:

- The player is lifted and then forced or "speared" into the ground. A red card should be issued for this type of tackle.
- The lifted player is dropped to the ground from a height with no regard to the player's safety. A red card should be issued for this type of tackle.

- For all other types of dangerous lifting tackles, it may be considered a penalty or yellow card is sufficient.

Referees and Citing Commissioners should not make their decisions based on what they consider was the intention of the offending player. Their decision should be based on an objective assessment (as per Law 10.4 (e)) of the circumstances of the tackle.

Match Officials' Awards and Products

Over the past 12 months, Andy Melrose, the RFU Referee Department's Training and Education Officer (TEO), has been developing a number of new products for Referee Society match officials. Four new Continuous Referee Development Award (CRDA) modules have been created (Feedback and the Debrief 1 & 2, Assistant Referee and Discipline) and the Referee Coach and Assessor awards are now available in modular format.

Society Training Officers (STOs) will soon be invited to a series of regional evening workshops designed to familiarise them with the new CRDA modules. The most significant development, however, is the creation of the Extended Referee Development Award (ERDA), aimed at Federation and Group Officials. Self Directed Learning (SDL) sits at the heart of the ERDA, ensuring that the referee places him/herself at the centre of the learning process and, ultimately, takes responsibility for his/her own development. SDL encourages referees to move away from being passive recipients of knowledge dispensed by others to becoming more active and critical learners. The ability to filter information and determine 'what works best' for each individual is key to successful officiating.

Appendix 1 provides outline detail on each of the Department's awards and products; your RefDM will provide you with further detail.

STO Continuous Personal Development (CPD)

A series of new CPD modules, including 'Training Design' and 'Training Delivery' have been developed for STOs. In addition, Andy Melrose is developing a 'Trainer Resource' site on RugbyFirst. The site will contain a wide range of training material, including PowerPoint presentations and accompanying notes, which you may choose to use. Your RefDM will provide you with further information.

Appendix 1 – Referee Department Courses, Awards and Products 2009-10

REFEREE			
Level	Title		Delivery
Club, School & Student	Entry Level Referee Award (ELRA)		Accredited Referee Trainer
	Mini Midi Award		Distance Learning CD ROM
	CRDA x 14		CRefD
Society	CRDA x 14		Society Training Officer
Federation and Group	Extended Referee Development Award (ERDA)		RefDM
MATCH OBSERVER			
Level	Title		Delivery
Society	Referee Developer Award		Referee Department Staff
	Adviser 1 & 2		Society Training Officer
Federation & Group (Assessor)	CPD 1	Skills	RefDM
	CPD 2	Data Collection	
	CPD 3	The Form	
	CPD 4	Practical Assessing	
REFEREE COACH			
Level	Title		Delivery
All	CPD 1	Philosophy	RefDM
	CPD 2	Listening & Questioning	
	CPD 3	G.R.O.W.	
	CPD 4	Practical	
SOCIETY TRAINING OFFICER			
Level	Title		Delivery
Society	CPD 1	Training Design	RefDM to facilitate
	CPD 2	Training Delivery	
	CPD 3	Practical Assessment	
	CPD 4	CRDA Conversion	
	CPD 5	ELRA Conversion	
TOUCH JUDGE			
Level	Title		Delivery
Club	Club Touch Judge Award		CRefD
Society	Assistant Referee CRDA		STO
Federation & Group	Assistant Referee ERDA		RefDM

RBS 6 Nations 2010 Fixtures

The Six Nations Council announced the schedule of matches for the 2010 RBS 6 Nations Championship, which will kick-off in Dublin on Saturday, 6 February, when Ireland meet Italy. The Championship will conclude in Paris on Saturday, 20 March, when France meet England. After the success of the Friday night fixture in 2009 - which produced the biggest TV audience of any French game in France and the second highest average TV audience of all 15 games in the 2009 Championship - the Council have decided to host another Friday match, to be played in Cardiff on Friday, 26 February 2010.

Since 2003, the Championship has been entirely broadcast on terrestrial TV and the audience figures have increased dramatically in all of the participating six Nations from 94 million in 2003 up to 125 million in 2009. The 2010 tournament will celebrate the centenary of the first championship between the five original members.

The 2009 RBS 6 Nations Championship title was in the balance until the last match in Cardiff and it was a nail-biting spectacle which saw Ireland crowned Grand Slam winners for the first time in 61 years.

RBS 6 Nations Championship 2010 Fixture Schedule (ALL TIMES GMT)

Week 1

Saturday 6th February
 14:30 - Ireland v Italy
 17:00 - England v Wales
 Sunday 7th February
 15:00 - Scotland v France

Week 2

Saturday 13th February
 14:00 - Wales v Scotland
 16:30 (17:30 local) - France v Ireland
 Sunday 14th February
 14.30 (15:30 local) - Italy v England

Week 3

20/21 February - Rest Weekend

Week 4

Friday 26th February
 20:00 - Wales v France
 Saturday 27th February
 13:30 (14:30 local) - Italy v Scotland
 16:00 - England v Ireland

Week 5

6/7 March - Rest Weekend

Week 6

Saturday 13th March
 14:30 - Ireland v Wales
 17:00 - Scotland v England
 Sunday 14th March
 14:30 (15.30 local) - France v Italy

Week 7

Saturday 20th March
 14:30 - Wales v Italy
 17:00 - Ireland v Scotland
 19:45 (20:45 local) - France v England

D&W Society of RFU Referees Forecast of Events Season 2009-10

D&W Society of RFU Referees Forecast of Events - Season 2009-10				
Date	Day	Event	Time	Location
15-Aug-09	Sun	Heineken 10's	1000 hrs	North Dorset RFC
15-16 Aug-09	Sat/sun	ELRA	0930 hrs	Swindon RFC
23-Aug-09	Sun	D&W Assessor/Advisor Seminar	1000 hrs	Tidworth - Oval
05-Sep-09	Sat	1st league game of season 2009-10 for level 6 clubs	1500 hrs	Oakmedians v Salisbury
07-Sep-09	Mon	D&W EGM	1930 hrs	Salisbury RFC
12 Sep p09	Sat	1st league game for level 7 and below clubs (D&W)	1500 hrs	Various
13-Sep-09	Sun	SW Fed Assessor/Advisor Seminar	1000 hrs	Wilton
27-Sep-09	Sun	ELRA Course	0930 hrs	North Dorset RFC
03-Oct-09	Sat	ELRA Course	0930 hrs	North Dorset RFC
06-Oct-09	Tue	Dorset Referee Training Night commences – then every first Tuesday of the month	1930 hrs	Langton Arms
13-Oct-09	Tue	Wiltshire Referee Training Night commences then every second Tuesday of the month	1930 hrs	George & Dragon Potterne