



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY AND DISTRICT
RUGBY REFEREES' SOCIETY
Formed 1946

CONTACT
KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH

SETTING COURSE

AUGUST 2016 SPECIAL

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Maturity is when you stop complaining and making excuses and start making changes.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 18th August 2016
7.30 pm Yo-Yo Fitness Test
at Leys Sports Hall

Tuesday 6th September 2016
Special General Meeting
7.30pm at Shelford RUFC
Presentation of
Financial Report
Formal notice and more details
to follow

ELRA Level 2 courses
available for booking
2nd & 9th October 2016
@ Cambridge University RUFC

12th & 26th February 2017
@ Old Cantabrigians RUFC

Friday 7th April 2017
Annual Dinner
and Ladies Night
at Christ's College

APPOINTMENTS
Please contact our
Appointments Manager
Thomas Northcote
by using this email address
cudrrsappoints@gmail.com

Visit
CUDRRS website
www.cambsref.co.uk

DESTINATION MISSION PURSUIT

Management Group has met and charted the first stages of our 2016 –17 voyage towards Better Refereeing for Better Rugby.

That's our mission and with all our members playing their part and doing their best to make it happen, this coming season will be another successful one for CUDRRS. We are all in this together and teamwork is as essential in a referees society as it is in a rugby club side.

Management will do its bit to plan and organise. The rest of us must support it and respond to the call. Our membership charter asks that we

- Be ready to assist with the running of the Society
- Cooperate with, respect and support the officers of the Society
- Behave well and be smartly dressed when representing the Society
- Attend meetings of the Society or tender apologies
- Keep the promises we make to the Society
- Contribute to the friendship and fun the Society offers

There is much to do and if you think you have something to offer which will help achieve the mission, don't wait to be asked, speak up and volunteer.

Every new season has fresh challenges, not the least the fact we are a year older since the start of the last. That might mean some have to work harder to reach peak fitness and others find it will be easier to referee as they have another year's experience.

With fitness in mind, match officials are reminded that your fitness is your responsibility and CUDRRS offers advice and annual measurement to support your plans.

Once again, **Mike Runswick** has arranged to stage the **Yo – Yo test and booked the Leys Sports Hall for 7:30 pm on Thursday 18th August.**

Please log into our website and read about the RFU 2016/17 Fitness test requirements that Sam Vail has posted and Paul Wilson achieved.

Knowledge of last season's laws will not be enough as there are a few changes that match officials must be conversant with. Therefore, attendance at the Special General Meeting on 6th September is most important. The RFU presentation and the discussion that will follow is intended to secure consistent interpretation and the communication of the same message to players right from the first kick off .

New law books have arrived and handbooks for the 2016-17 season are awaited from the printers. These will be posted to all members in the next two weeks.

There are law changes to youth Rugby and **all referees who intend to referee at U13 age group should attend** the training session at Shelford organised by Steve Johnson. He has arranged with Rory Finlayson for briefing sessions to be held at Shelford RUFC for coaches and referees on Sunday 11th September 2016 from 1.30 to 3 p.m. Two adjoining pitches will be made available, one for Under 12 and one for Under 13.

So in pursuit of our mission, this article rightly identifies Fitness and Knowledge as key aspects of Better Refereeing. Unless referees are fit , they will not be in the right position to make the right decision. Unless they have correct knowledge of the laws, they will not make correct decisions.

CUDRRS provides opportunities for its members to develop their refereeing skills and their friendships.

Management Group intends to create these and more information follows.

Editor

DEVELOPING TALENT

David Howell is working on providing a stimulating programme including contributions from an international TMO and a premiership referee. We also hope to attend a Cambridge University Blues game as a group and discuss the performance of the team of 3 post game. There will also be presentations of at least one of the new RFU training modules (CMOD - Continuing Match Official Development) which will become available soon.

Suggestions and feedback from members about the content of meetings are warmly welcomed and should be sent to David Howell our Society Training Manager.

GETTING TOGETHER

Cambridge have friendly games with Bishops Stortford on Sat 20th August. As a social event members are encouraged to have a pre-season meet in the bar 30 minutes before kick off and watch the games together.

Games kick off at 2pm and 3pm with Thomas Northcote refereeing the development squad game.

Annual dinner and Ladies Night 2017 will take place on Friday 7th April 2017 at Christ's College.

After the successful events of recent years featuring Rory Underwood, Ian Robertson and Eddie Butler the MG is leaving no stone unturned in a search for next years guest speaker. Full details of ticketing arrangements will follow at the end of September.

KIT

Spelt with only one T means its not an article about Rowan this time but Society stash.

The new kit will be distributed at the Special General Meeting on 6th September at Shelford RUFC.

This is an incentive to attend and be "tangoed" in CUDRRS orange.

Paul Wilson has bought a new tape measure to verify correct sizes. He will also conduct a kit exchange whereby referees with surplus items can pass them on to others needing a wider range of colours etc.

Any surplus kit left over after that will be packed off to KIT AID.



RECRUITMENT

We sometimes struggle to satisfy all the requests we receive especially in the first three months of a season. CUDRRS is in great demand and especially by youth rugby in schools and clubs. People trust us to do a good job.

Although we are in better situation than most societies and do our best to cope with what we have, we probably won't have enough to cover lower age group school games on Saturdays before Christmas.

Watching the Singha Sevens I have been impressed by the number of young referees on the circuit that are exceptionally fit and competent. It would be nice to see more young referees in our ranks and more new blood at levels 7-9 on their way to greater things with our help and guidance.

Refereeing is a great way to enjoy Rugby and it seems that young people are more than ever willing to give it a go. They are out there. Let's try and find them, chat and bring them into our company.

There are training courses planned in our area so please publicise them as you go around the clubs and discover potential referees

ELRA Level 2 courses available for booking

**2nd & 9th October 2016
@ Cambridge University RUFC**

**12th & 26th February 2017
@ Old Cantabrigians RUFC**

On line course booking is available on the RFU website

Applications for membership as a probationary member should be made to David Tyrrell.

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND



On behalf of those of us in CUDRRS who knew him, **CONTACT** pays tribute to Brian Williams, a former President of the Rugby Football Union, Ipswich YM RUFC and Eastern Counties Rugby Union who passed away on Friday, 22nd July following a short illness. He was 75 years old.

Among my rugby memories scrapbook is this photo taken in the Royal Box at Twickenham in February 2009. It shows me with Brian prior to the England match against Italy

He was there in his capacity as the 100th President of the RFU, an honour he richly deserved for his services to rugby.

I was there as the valued volunteer guest of the RFU nominated by Cambridge University Rugby Union

The match was Martin Johnson's first Six Nations game in charge and after it Brian and I agreed that it had been an unconvincing victory although England

had won by 36 –11. At the post match dinner, I responded to Brian's official welcome to the valued volunteers in continental style by standing and waving my table napkin above my head, much to his amusement.

He had played rugby since 1952 and coached the Ipswich YMCA, Suffolk Youth and Eastern Counties teams before becoming a referee. He was also Eastern Counties' CB representative to the RFU for years

On the RFU website, this tribute is paid by Jason Leonard, the current RFU President, "Brian was a well-loved and outstanding servant of the game. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him and he leaves a great rugby legacy. I have known Brian since I was a youngster of 18 playing for Eastern Counties and coming through the system. He was a wonderful guy and is a huge personal loss. Our thoughts are with his wife Wendy and daughter Elizabeth and family".

Brian's legacy included being a respected referee as a member of the Suffolk and Eastern Counties Societies. He served on the RFU Laws and National Discipline Committees and for seven years on the Community Rugby Standing Committee. Brian was a member of the working party which updated Disciplinary Procedures. He was also Match Commissioner for three international matches and two European Cups.

I first met Brian Williams at a CUDRRS monthly meeting when they were held at Grange Road. He was chairman of EC Disciplinary Committee and explained its procedures to us and confirmed its firm support of referees in dispensing fairness and justice when players transgressed.

Over the past twenty years, both of us were frequently invited by the University to the annual Steele - Bodger's game in November at Grange Road. We were often seated together at the pre-match lunch and in adjoining seats in the stand.

We shared a love for Rugby and were equally dedicated to the Community game. Our conversations during the matches recalled the fun of grassroots rugby prior to 1995. We discussed the level of financial support given by the RFU to the professional game and the England team. We agreed to disagree about whether the amount of that support to elite Rugby was in the best interests of grassroots rugby but we never fell out about it.

Brian was one of those many lovely people you meet in Rugby and cannot help but feel sad when they leave the scene. I have that feeling now. Thanks for the chats Mr. Williams. May he rest in peace

MAKING CONTACT

YOUR newsletter needs **YOUR** participation by word and deed. Please contribute your news, opinions, photographs and comments for inclusion in future editions. They will, depending on sufficient material being received, be distributed monthly after the training meetings which in effect are the deadlines for copy.

CONTACT has a flexible policy and will gladly welcome readers' input at any time.

Get in touch!

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:

michael.dimambro@ntlworld.com or telephone **01223 564459**.