

# Go Whistle



ISSUE 1 VOLUME 2

AUGUST 2007

ASSOCIATION OF REFEREES LEINSTER BRANCH



## Presidents Corner

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Norman Camier

We are fast approaching our Seminar on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August and I hope as many as possible will be able to make it to Old Belvedere.

(Details inside this issue)

You will notice that this year the plan is in place to have more meeting available to our members and this has been done to increasing communication among us. It is important to share information as well as using the occasions to foster the fellowship that exist between us. No referee goes through games without having experiences be they Law issues or the

unexpected. Talking about the unexpected if there are any worth publishing do send them in to us.

September brings it's own excitement with the start of the World Cup and the first match between France and Argentina which will have a real bearing on Ireland's group. That match kicks off on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> and Ireland's first match is against Namibia Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>.

(See our world cup special)

As a member of the ARLB it is also good for all of us to set out our objectives for the year, we do it at work, we do it at home (I must get the outside of the house

painted this year !!!!!). It is always pleasing then when we do.

I wish everybody a very successful coming season.

Yours in rugby,

Norman



**SUBARU**

## NEWS and VIEWS

### JOHN PAUL DOYLE

John Paul Doyle who started his career with the ARLB has been appointed to Division 1 in England. This is the second highest level and just below top 15 elite. We are delighted with JP's progress

wish him well for the future.

JP is the son of former president Terry Doyle. He is a member of Terenure College RFC and the London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees.

### ASSESSORS MEETING

Dave McHugh has kindly agreed to kick-off our series of meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. All Assessors / Coaches are invited. If there are people who are interested in either assessing or coach-

ing do come along.

The meeting will be held in Old Belvedere at 7.30pm.



## SEMINAR PROMISES TO BE BEST YET

The emphasis this year is on development allied to an attempt to address some of the issues raised in the end of season questionnaire.

We are delighted to confirm that **Steve Griffiths** will be taking much of the morning session and addressing the issue of Assertiveness - how to empower referees in the crucial area of Man Management. The evidence of recent assessments would suggest that this is one key area requiring improvement, particularly for emerging referees.

More and more often now referees have touch judging appointments, often at levels of games higher than those at which they normally officiate. I am delighted to confirm that **David Keane** has agreed to take charge of this module.

To show we have an All Ireland perspective we have invited **Bertie Smith** from the Munster Association to share with us some of his vast ex-

perience. Bertie refereed at the highest level and continues to be actively involved in referee's affairs.

**Aoife Mc Carthy** will give an insight into her refereeing at International level.

**Alan Oliver** (retired child protection officer Scotland Yard) will give a talk on child protection and the areas, which have reference to the ARLB.

In addition to all the above, **Ciaran O Brien** is organising a welcome pack for all referees and assessors, contents of same awaiting confirmation!

The steering group will continue to meet during the off-season and feel free to throw in suggestions to Alfie or Norman.

So diary in **Sunday August 19th** and we all look forward to seeing you on the day.

A further Seminar is planned for November 15th in Lawlors Hotel Naas Start 8pm. More details will be on our web site nearer the time.

With thanks to G.P. Maher.

### Seminar & Workshop

#### Dates

#### Dates for the laws meeting for season 2007/2008

Old Belvedere Rugby Club  
19th August 2007

Lawlors Hotel Naas  
15th November 2007

Old Belvedere Rugby Club  
28th February 2008

#### SYMPATHIES

The Association would like to extend our sympathy to John Nolan on the Death of his father in law Michael Breen 'May he rest in peace'

## Eden Park

*'diary in Sunday August 19th and we all look forward to seeing you on the day.'*

## INFO ON UNPLAYABLE GROUNDS & NEWS



Please be advised that in the event of a grounds man declaring a pitch unplayable, referees have no responsibility or authority to offer a contrary opinion. In these situations it is the grounds man's responsibility and we should not get involved. The only authority a referee has is to cancel a match if in his opin-

ion; the ground is in an unsafe condition. Honorary Secretary ARLB

P.S. It is always a good idea to give the club where you are refereeing a call before you set out on your journey especially if you are refereeing quite a distance away. All club contact numbers can be found in the hand book or on the

Leinster Rugby site.

#### SPEEDY RECOVERY

We would like to send our best wishes to Ciaran O Brien and Bernard Doyle and a speedy recovery from recent illnesses.



## IRFU NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT



*'Kevin Beggs reports from the recent IRFU National Conference for Referees'*

July 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> 2007 saw the annual IRFU referee conference in Belvedere RFC. The AIL referees come together to discuss the recent season, possible upcoming law changes, focus points on the upcoming season as well as the dreaded 150 fitness test. We were fortunate to have in attendance on the Saturday Alan Lewis and Alain Rolland who gave their input and opinions on a range of issues.

Friday night was the fitness test. Forty five of Irish rugby's finest whistlers arrived, however only about thirty one were kitted out to complete the test. The rest managed a wide range of excuses and did the marking duties. For those not aware of the test it consists of a shuttle sprint with cones marked out at five, ten, fifteen, twenty, and twenty five metres. The participant has to run back and forwards flat out for thirty seconds, rest for thirty and then repeat the exercise. This happens six times and in the space of six minutes everyone was reduced to mere shells of their former selves. The rest of the night was spent at dinner, attending the court session

where Dave McHugh was the prosecution and then retiring to refresh ourselves at Paddy Cullens hostelry.

9.00am Saturday saw everyone reappear and the seminar kicked off with Owen Doyle from the IRFU going over points of clarity that have been raised by the various unions. There are no new law changes being introduced this season, however one clarification was to ensure players are penalised for diving over players on the ground in front of them in order to reach the ball which has either just emerged from a ruck on the ground, or is still in the opposite players hands. A player may come from his own side as long as this player stays on his feet and is on side.

Simon McDowell then conducted a Television Match Official over view. The Magners League this season will have a TMO in operation and it was interesting hearing how the system operates around the world. Also on the agenda for the day was Alain Rolland discussing the way he addresses the front row and

scrum half prior to a match.

An interesting exercise was to show clips of foul play spotted by a Touch Judge. The room would view the clip with no sound and some one would be picked out to give a TJ report to either Alan Lewis or Alain Rolland who had turned their back to the screen. It really showed how critical it is to give the correct information to the referee in a manner which is calm and descriptive and yet uses the right terminology which indicates to the referee the severity of the offence. I think every one in the room learned something from this exercise.

Proceedings were brought to a conclusion at about 3.00pm and left us all raring to go in what will be a busy World Cup year with the Heineken Cup, Magners League and AIL vying for everyone's attention. By the way, I hear the All Blacks have booked a spare seat on their plane back to New Zealand on October for someone called William Webb Ellis.....I'm off to Paddy Powers.

**Kevin Beggs** (A dreamer)

**Eden Park**

## REFEREE PROFILE

**Name:** Stephen McCann

**Date of Birth:** 24 / 11 / 1978

**Club:** Newbridge

**Level Reached:** J1

**Notes:** Matches of note 2006 Dunne cup final, 2006 jnr dev cup final 2007 snr schools 2nds cup final, 2007 counties S/F— apparently John Downey has all the good stories on Stephen.

We will be profiling more refe-

rees from around Leinster in coming issues so if you local rep asks please give your full support.



**SUBARU.**

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## ALAIN ROLLAND ON HIS WORLD CUP PREPARATIONS

With only a few weeks to go to RWC 2007, I'm moving into the final stages of my preparations and there is an extra zip in my stride.

This month brings a number of warm up matches, if you could call France v England a warm up, so the next few weekends re introduce the airport and flights!!!

Work is also busy so being able to balance it all brings on many challenges.

My training currently con-

sists of weights, running, speed work, and cycling.

I'm in the gym doing a combination of weights for my upper and lower body on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's. The gym is beside my office in town so I go there at lunchtime and it takes 50 minutes.

I do a speed session in Santry at 11 on a Wednesday which takes a total of one hour.

I do a 30 minute run on Tuesday's and Thursday,

which I vary, as some days it will be on the treadmill and other days it will be outdoors. I have a circuit that goes from the Iveagh gym in Christchurch, up to Harolds Cross bridge, along the canal to Baggot St and then back through Stephen's Green park.

I cycle for an hour to an hour and a half at 6am on Monday and Friday morning and after work on a Tuesday. Saturday and Sunday are currently rest days so my routine will

change a little next week to allow for the matches at the weekend.

I have another isokenetic test booked for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August as this will test the strength and balance ratio in my hamstring, quads and calves. It's a test I do twice a year, once off season and once in season so I', looking forward to it.

This will continue up to when we assemble in Paris on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Alain Rolland**

## GEAR UP WITH



**Those** of you who ordered off field leisure wear from Eden Park should have received a call from them to say that your order is in.

If you have not please contact the shop in the Powerscourt Centre in Dublin. Thanks go to Robbie Doyle for getting this sponsorship deal—this is top quality gear.

[www.eden-park.fr](http://www.eden-park.fr)

Kevin Beggs and Dan Wallace have been counting and there is still plenty of gear available in the container in Donnybrook. If you need any gear for the 2007/08 season please let them know before the seminar so they can have it available for you.

Have your yellows turned pale? Are those shorts a little tighter than last year? Has that neck thickened?

Lots of stock available—email [danwallace05@gmail.com](mailto:danwallace05@gmail.com) or [Kevin.beggs@quinn-direct.com](mailto:Kevin.beggs@quinn-direct.com) to order more.

We hope to have some special offers on ARLB t-shirts at the upcoming seminar in August.

*“Have your yellows turned pale? Are those shorts a little tighter than last year? Has that neck thickened?” Get your new gear...*

**Eden  Park**

When he's in full flight, he's just a joy to watch..





## O'BRIEN BLOWS WHISTLE ON WHINGERS

Paddy O'Brien, the International Rugby Board (IRB) refereeing co-ordinator, has declared war on Rugby Union's whingers.

O'Brien said coaches, players and officials will not be allowed to question referees' decisions at the World Cup in France later this year, while coaches will also no longer be allowed to meet with referees before matches.

"This [issue] has crept back into the game," O'Brien told the NZ Herald.

"Experienced players are taking in inexperienced referees and cashing in on their lack of experience.

"We're not going to accept this at the World Cup. Those players doing so will be penalised at once."

O'Brien says world rugby chiefs have been dismayed at the growing trend for coaches to use the media to undermine match officials and players.

"Some of the comments I read in the build-up to the two [Tri-Nations] Test matches in New Zealand were absurd," he said.

"The Australians were accused of not scrummaging, and individual players were accused of being cheats. We

have had enough of this; it has got to stop.

"I am determined that the World Cup will be won by the best team on the paddock, not in newspaper columns and certainly not by a coach running to a newspaper, bleating.

"We are banning all meetings between coaches and referees [allowed before the Tri-Nations game at Eden Park] before World Cup games.

"No other sport allows coaches to go in and see referees, armed with laptops, statistics and photos, before a game. Rugby should not be the first; it is absurd.

"Referees must referee what they see in front of them on the field during a game, not have pre-conceived ideas through coaches trying to influence them 24 hours before a match even starts.

"We will be putting a huge emphasis on that point before the World Cup begins."

O'Brien said he was disturbed by the number of allegations being made about cheating.

"To take the two recent subjects of this trend, Richie McCaw is an outstanding No.7, probably the best the world has ever seen," he told the newspaper.

"All opensides contest at the breakdown. It doesn't mean McCaw is cheating.

"And as for the Australian front row, I don't accept they won't scrummage. All teams get some scrums wrong, it's part of the game. To suggest they're doing it deliberately is absurd. Such talk has got to stop."

O'Brien blames the trend on growing pressure on coaches, and the willingness of some reporters to pass on as gospel everything a coach says.

"I think some coaches believe they can use the media to get the upper hand, and some reporters have no credibility at all," he said.

"But as I say, this World Cup should be won by the best team. I don't care which side that is but I do know that referees cannot afford to listen to public opinion and they can't afford to let myths grow. They have to deal with facts."



*Referees must referee what they see in front of them on the field during a game, not have pre-conceived ideas through coaches trying to influence them 24 hours before a match even starts.*

Eden  Park



## IRELAND'S WORLD CUP POOL OF DEATH

It is easy to see why, as soon as Pool D was drawn, it was described as the archetypal group of death. With host nation France set to do battle with Ireland and Argentina – three of the top six nations in the IRB World Rankings - one genuine title contender will bow out before the quarter final stages.

France have the best Rugby World Cup pedigree of the three, having twice been losing finalists, although Ireland and Argentina have both reached quarterfinals in the past, ironically losing to Les Bleus between them at the last three tournaments.

Argentina and France – who meet in the opening match at

Stade de France on 7 September – will also have an extra motivation, if ever one were needed, with both Marcelo Loffreda and Bernard Laporte stepping down as coach after the tournament.

Ireland and Argentina, though, are certainly no strangers in World Cup history, the Pumas having won their quarterfinal playoff 28-24 in 1999 to automatically qualify for the next tournament, only for Ireland to then turn the tables with a 16-15 victory in Adelaide.

The Pumas, many of whom play their rugby in France and so missed the series defeat of Ireland in June, will

have revenge in mind at the Parc des Princes on 30 September in the last Pool D match which should determine the two that progress to the knockout stage.

For both Georgia and Namibia – just like in 2003, drawn in the same Pool as Ireland and Argentina – the Stade Félix-Bollaert in Lens on 26 September could become somewhere they never forget, as the venue of their first ever Rugby World Cup victory.

The two sides have met only once before, Georgia gaining a psychological advantage with their 26-18 victory during the IRB Nations Cup in



Romania in June, one they will hope to repeat with their traditional strong defence creating a platform for backs to shine.

Players to look out for include David Skrela for France, twins Felipe and Manuel Contepomi in the Pumas backline, Georgian fly half Merab Kvirikashvili and his counterpart Justinus van der Westhuizen, who scored four tries on his Namibia debut.

### Date - Time

Date - Time	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
09 Sep - 20:00	Ireland	Namibia	Bordeaux
15 Sep - 21:00	Ireland	Georgia	Bordeaux
21 Sep - 21:00	France	Ireland	Saint-Denis
30 Sep - 17:00	Ireland	Argentina	Paris

## OUR REFEREES IN ACTION AT FRANCE 2007

### REFEREEING

#### ALAN LEWIS

Saturday, September 8th Australia v Japan  
 Saturday, September 22nd England v Samoa  
 Saturday, September 30th France v Georgia

#### ALAIN ROLLAND

Sunday, September 9th Wales v Canada  
 Sunday, September 16th France v Namibia  
 Friday, September 28th England v Tonga

### OTHER DUTIES

#### ALAN LEWIS

Sunday, September 9th Scotland v Portugal 4th Official  
 Tuesday, September 11th Argentina v Georgia 4th Official  
 Wednesday, September 26th Georgia v Namibia 4th Official

#### ALAIN ROLLAND

Friday, September 7th France v Argentina 4th Official  
 Wednesday, September 12th Italy v Romanian 4th Official  
 Tuesday, September 25th Canada v Japan 4th Official  
 Sunday, September 29th Wales v Fiji 4th Official

# ASSOCIATION OF REFEREES LEINSTER BRANCH

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Many of the articles included in this publication are open for discussion on the ARLB Message Board available at [ARLB.net](http://ARLB.net)




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