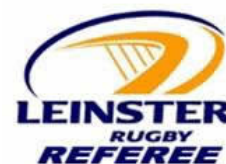


# Go Whistle



NEWSLETTER OF THE LEINSTER RUGBY REFEREES WWW.ARLB.NET VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1 AUGUST 2008

## PRESIDENTS CORNER WITH BRIAN PENDER

I am very honoured and proud to be elected as your President for the coming season. I would like to thank Norman Camier for proposing me and I know that I have a hard act to follow, given the tremendous work done last year- particularly in the areas of recruitment, retention and communication.

Our Association faces many challenges in the months ahead not least in maintaining the momentum on recruitment and retention. We are fortunate in having David Keane focused on recruitment in Leinster and a heightened awareness among the Area Reps. of the importance of retaining these recruits mainly through ensuring that they get matches. I believe it is the responsibility of every member of the ARLB to be constantly on the look out for potential new members and to pass on their details to David Keane.

Last season we introduced a new assignment system for assessors which like any new system needed time to bed in and be tested. This system has now been refined and a huge amount of work has been done by Jerome Counihan, Fran Nolan and Bernard Boland. This system will work and it requires the commitment of all concerned to ensure it does – Assessors and Referees alike !. It is our ambition that every active referee will be assessed at least twice during next season.

The impending introduction of the Experimental Law Variations, ( ELV )s, has been well publicised. ELVs will be the keynote topic at the Seminar on August 17th. , delivered by IRFU personnel. It is imperative that all active referees attend the seminar as our selectors are not allowed to appoint match officials who have not attended an IRFU presentation

on ELVs. I would also urge all active referees to ensure they maintain/improve their fitness levels as fitness will be more important than ever next season.

I would like to take this opportunity in congratulating John Montayne on reaching the All National Panel and to John Carvil on receiving an IRFU contract. Well done to you both.

Finally I wish you all a successful and enjoyable season in whatever role you fill in the ARLB. I am always available to take suggestions and constructive criticism and I look forward to meeting you all on August 17th.

Brian Pender



*WEDDING BELLS.*

*Congrats to Ed Kenny and Sarah Sheehan (daughter of Ann Acheson) who got married during the summer.*

## AUGUST INTERESTING FACTS



Some interesting facts on Irish Referees over the last year with thanks to Tom Aplin:

**Rugby World Cup Final** Alain Rolland (+2 quarter finals Alain Rolland/Alan Lewis)

**Heineken Cup** (2 Semis/2 Quarters) Alain Rolland/Alan Lewis

**Churchill Cup Final** George Clancy

**Women's World Cup Final** Simon Mc Dowell

**IRB 7's Finals** David Keane/Simon Mc Dowell

**FIRA Nations Womens** Aoife Mc Carthy

**Hong Kong 7's Womens Final** Aoife Mc Carthy

**IRB Panel Referee** George Clancy

**RWC qualifier** Colin Stanley

**Heineken Cup** Peter Fitzgibbon

**Magners League** David Wilkinson

In the case of Peter and David last season was their first time to referee Heineken/Magners. Long may it continue.

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## WHOS WHO—ARLB COMMITTEE 2008

<b>President</b>	Brian Pender	<b>Senior Vice President</b>	J.J. Counihan
<b>Junior Vice President</b>	Fran Nolan	<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Tom Tuohy
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Brendan Lynch	<b>Active Referee</b>	Dan Wallace
<b>Active Referee</b>	Kevin Beggs	<b>Former Referee</b>	Dave Robb
<b>Former Referee</b>	Des McCabe	<b>IRFU Representative</b>	Tom Aplin
<b>Leinster Rep</b>	Alfie Acheson	<b>North East Rep</b>	Jim Walker
<b>North Midlands</b>	Brendan Conroy	<b>Midlands</b>	Liam Conlon
<b>South East</b>	Cormac Cullinan	<b>Metro Area</b>	Gearoid Ferrick

*A 'try' is so called because originally the act of touching the ball down over the opposition's line then enabled the team to try kicking at goal (later called a conversion).*

The contact details for all above are on our website. Please feel free to contact any of them with any problems you may have. The best approach is to contact you area representative first.

We welcome Fran Nolan to the committee as the Junior Vice President. Alfie Acheson steps down as Honorary Secretary and leaves this role in the capable hands of Tom Tuohy. Alfie is

elected to the committee as the Representative to the Leinster Branch. We thank Tony De Lacy for his great work in this role for many years.

We welcome Dave Robb to his first year on the committee as he replaces Sean Mallin. We wish Sean well as he takes a back seat and thank him for his immense work over the years.

Gearoid Ferrick is elected to the committee as Metro Area rep

after a successful summer coaching the Emerald Warriors.

It is fitting we finally thank our outgoing president Norman Camier for his great work last year and especially over previous years.

## ANNUAL SEMINAR 2008/09 SEASON

The Annual Seminar takes place on Sunday August 17th 2008 at Old Belvedere RFC (by kind permission). It of course signals the start of the new season after a summer of rain showers, eating, drinking and some tag rugby. It promises to be the biggest seminar yet...I wonder why.

Confirmation to date indicate that our pre-season seminar on Aug 17<sup>th</sup> will produce the biggest ever attendance at an event of this kind organised by the A.R.L.B. Much of the credit must go to the organising Committee, who have worked diligently at the project over re-

cent weeks. The imminent arrival of the northern hemisphere ELVs has certainly generated considerable interest! As you are probably aware, these differ from those ELVs currently applying in the Tri-Nations Series. Whoever imagined that the life of a referee was meant to be simple!

It goes without saying that all referees, assessors and referee coaches are expected to be in attendance. A comprehensive package relating to the ELVs will be available to each attendee on the day. But, of course, rugby is about more than your ELVs. We cannot forget other aspects of the game in our pursuit of mastery of these ELVs! We have an array of speakers

on the day. In addition to the I.R.F.U. morning presentation, I am delighted to confirm that Alan Gaffney will be joining us. He is most comfortable with a Q & A format, so have those questions ready!

In recent years, we have always been most fortunate in having strategic input from the I.R.B. and this year is no exception. I am delighted to confirm the involvement of Steve Griffith on Aug 17<sup>th</sup>. He is a most professional and challenging presenter and we all look forward to his input.

Registration is between 09:00 and 09:30 in Old Belvedere R.F.C.



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## BINGHAM CUP 2008

The Bingham Cup took place in DCU sports arena on the 13th, 14th & 15th June. It could only be described as a unique event and will last in the memory of the members of the ARLB who took part.

The competition was divided into 4 sections Cup, Bowl, Plate and Shield with a total of 33 teams. The standard of rugby started at J1 down to J4.

The finals were refereed by

Cup **Robert Doyle**. Winners Sydney Convicts 1

Bowl **Brendan Conroy**. Winners Atlanta Bucks

Plate **Martin Dunne**. Winners World Barbarians

Shield **Chris Reynolds**. Winners Ulster Titans

Over 300 people watched the Cup final and as this was Robert's last adult game of rugby he went out on a high

To all the referees take a bow, the high level of refereeing in all sections of the competition was the topic of conversation over the weekend. It was good to hear praise from our Australian and English friends. On the Saturday morning we went to the local pub to watch the Australian V Ireland test match and I can tell you there was some atmosphere

A special word of thanks to Brian Cullen. 25 coaching reports over the 3 days and also to our senior referees David, Peter, Ken, John and Robert for their help and support given to our young referees. A total of 38 ARLB members, one member of MAR and four guest referees officiated and with the

high numbers we had we could select a team of 3 for all matches and a team of 5 for the finals. The amount of enjoyment and fun had by all the referees was great to see and if a lesson must be learned it is that more events of such like should be organised. What a weekend of rugby. To Dorothy Collins and Dermot O Mahony of the Leinster Branch thank you for your help and support and to Dorothy thank you very much for your kind gesture on Sunday evening. Peter enjoyed his Sex on the Beach and the lads enjoyed the Pints.

Check out all the action here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leinsterrugbyreferees>

Alfie Acheson

Director of Referees



The Bingham Cup took place in DCU in June. The ARLB officiated at it.

*The first 2 rounds of the Leinster Senior Cup will be used to train new referees up on touch judging (they will be non flagging Tj's)*



**Pictured are:** Back Row (L to R) Ken Henley-Willis, Ronnie McCann, Paul Dorman, James Fegan, Dennis Connolly, Richard Carson, Peter Dennehy, Wayne Sheridan, Brendan Conroy, Gearoid Ferrick, John Montayne, Front Row (L to R): Brian Cullen, Chris Reynolds, Pail Kirwan, Jay Trello (USA), Alfie Acheson, Danny Fagan, Steven McCann,



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## ASSESSING FOR SEASON 2008/09

You may not be aware but during the off season we reviewed the overall Assessing Procedure and endeavoured to attract more Assessors to help in increasing the number of Assessments. We have had some success in this and also we are introducing a shortened Assessment Form to facilitate the ease of Assessing but at the same time providing us with the relevant information which we require.

With the changes to the system and the increased number of Assessors we hope to be in a position to significantly increase the number of Assessments in the coming Season. In the initial stages this Season we would hope to concentrate on assessing those referees who, for whatever reason, were not assessed last season. We also hope to assess all referees who

were admitted to the Association last season in the earlier part of this season.

In redefining the groups we have tried to get a geographical spread in order to ease the access for Assessors to matches. We have increased the number of Assessors in each of the assessment teams and these together with the group to which all referees have been allocated will be posted on the Associations Web Site.

I would like to emphasise that all referees should access the web site and determine the group they are in and the Assessors that are allocated to that group. Referees themselves should be proactive in obtaining Assessments. When they know the matches which they have been allocated they should

contact an Assessor in the relevant group. The referees are the first to know what matches to which they have been appointed. If any have difficulty in obtaining an Assessor please contact the Area Rep. when we can then pursue the matter and arrange for assessments.

Every referee at whatever grade deserves to be assessed and I am hopeful that the system introduced last season and now amended this season will help in our aim to have all referees assessed twice each season and that no referee would be left without having been assessed.

We will be monitoring assessments on a more proactive basis through the office and at selection time.

## ELVs

The IRB Council has announced that it will decide at a meeting next May on one set of rules to be adopted by each and every member union, following the conclusion of the global ELV trial.

Council also agreed on a way forward for Age Grade pathway competitions in terms of ELV application following requests from several Member Unions for Council to clarify how ELVs will apply in this area. "The IRB Council reaffirmed that the approved global trial of ELVs as adopted by Council in May this year will go ahead from August 1 with no alteration to the programme. The 13 approved ELVs will be implemented worldwide in the trial," said IRB Chairman

Bernard Lapasset.

"Council further determined that the present situation whereby different ELV programmes are being trialled around the world was far from ideal. "It is the result of the nature of the ELV testing programme and the timing differences between the northern and southern seasons.

"However, Council is determined to ensure that one set of Laws are agreed on for the future in the shortest timeframe without compromising the ELV global trial." "Therefore Council agreed that the Rugby Committee convene a meeting in the first quarter next year to begin the next phase of the formal ELV review process.

"This detailed review will include input from the IRB Execu-

tive Committee and Union representatives including Rugby technical directors. "The Rugby Committee will then make a recommendation to Council in May 2009 on which, if any, ELVs should be adopted into Law," added Mr Lapasset.

"Council did express its disappointment that an additional trial in a Northern Hemisphere tournament of the sanctions ELV that have been trialled in the Super 14 has yet to be agreed by Rugby stakeholders in the northern hemisphere.

"Council requested in May that the sanctions ELV be trialled in a top level competition somewhere in the north to allow further detailed analysis and comparison of this part of the initial ELV programme. This ELV sees many penalties awarded



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## FUN EVENINGS???

As a result of the successful night run by the North Midlands Area (approx 20 attended) on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> July, the ARLB put in place three more venues during August.

This was an opportunity for all referees and aspiring referees to meet in a casual setting and have a bit of fun and banter.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008

Ashbourne and Seapoint

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August

St. Marys College RFC

We also hope to put in place another venue hopefully on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> somewhere near the M50.

### NO ELVs WERE DISCUSSED

The sessions were taken by ALL referees including Dudley Phillips, Kevin Beggs and Robbie Doyle and included some assistants in the form of Peter Dennehy, Ken Henley-Willis, Paul Haycock, Alan Rogan, Eanna O'Dowd and Mark Gargan.

The whole lot was an idea of Brendan Conroy North Midlands area representative.

Each session included a discussion of nutrition, warm up techniques, that fabulous 150 test, position from Kick offs, positioning at scrums and lineout's.

Each session was well attended with over 30 referees turning up at St Marys College and a good evening and great discussion was had by all.

## IPAS REFEREES ANNOUNCED

The referees who have made it on to the IPAS panel for 2008/09 were announced over the summer holidays as follows:

### **Leinster**

Dan Wallace  
Edward Kenny  
Gordon Murray  
Robbie O'Flynn

### **Munster**

Olly Hodges  
Will O'Connor  
Eddie Hogan-O'Connell  
Kieran Murphy  
Shane Coveney  
Dermot Blake

### **Ulster**

Stuart Gaffikin  
Stuart Douglas  
Chris Milligan

Referees will referee a number of games outside their home province during the season and will be assessed on these games in the hope of making it onto the AIL Panel.

## ELVs contd

for technical offences downgraded to free-kicks." "We remain hopeful that following further discussions between Unions, clubs and provinces and other stakeholders in the north such a trial will be put in place during the upcoming 2008/09 season," added Mr Lapasset. Council also noted that Unions have developed different Player pathway programmes unique to their Player development requirements and structures. The custom and practice has evolved whereby some Unions, while not creating new Laws, have evolved local applications of the Laws of the Game to complement their local circumstances and devel-

opment pathways at U19 levels. "With the move by many senior Unions to make U20 the key player pathway target for Age Grade Rugby, Council has decided that this practice of local pathways and specific Law application should be fully reviewed.

"A full audit will be carried out on such pathways applied by various Unions around the world. The review will determine whether the age threshold of U19 for Age Grade variations was still suitable for the Game.

"A recommendation will be made to Council towards the end of 2009 on any future appli-

cations and/or at which age level they may be applied to," said IRB Chairman Bernard Lapasset.

"While this comprehensive review is underway Council agreed that Unions may continue at their own risk to maintain local Law adaptations at U19 level and below which fit local pathway requirements and which address other necessary or relevant circumstances.

"This includes local application of the ELVs approved for global trial from August 1 this year," added Mr Lapasset.



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## ELVs on IRFU WEBSITE

**Thirteen** of the ELVs will be trialled in Northern Hemisphere competitions. The full list of laws to be trialled is available on our website.

It is important to note for example that the current **Tri Nations** series between New Zealand, Australia and South Africa are using a **number of other ELVs that will not be used in competitions in Ireland** and other Northern Hemisphere countries.

You can view all the relevant

Law variations, **download a pdf** and **view a video** of how the relevant experimental changes will look - [Click Here](#).

The IRFU has already run a series of seminars for ALL rugby Clubs in the four provinces. The seminars were aimed at key club coaching staff.

Branch Development Officers are undergoing training during July and August to ensure that they can provide expertise to club and school staff at the beginning of the season. Refe-

rees will undergo training through their Branch Association courses.

Our annual seminar will cover the ELVs. If you do not attend you will not be eligible for selection until you have attended an ELV workshop.

## REFEREE GEAR FOR NEW SEASON

Order forms have been sent out for referee gear for the 2008/09 season. **There are two standard packs available: The Outdoor Pack:** Fleece, Beanie and Polo Shirt for €55 **and The Training Pack:** Weatherproof Top, T-Shirt for €45.

We received a large number of orders from referees. There is not enough gear for every refe-

ree that has ordered gear so we will do our best to accommodate you. We hope to send out emails on Friday to those referees whose orders cannot be fulfilled at the present time.

Payment should be exact cash or cheque only as we will not have much change available.

Gear will be available for collec-

tion before the seminar from 8am to 9am and during lunch-time. We will not be giving out orders during the seminar but will hang around afterwards to give out the rest of it.

Please wear only Subaru sponsored gear for the 2008/09 season.

## ARLB on FLICKR

We have a new photo gallery on flickr which can be accessed using [www.flickr.com/photos/leinsterrugbyreferees](http://www.flickr.com/photos/leinsterrugbyreferees). Photos of the Bingham Cup, Seminars and the Hong Kong Sevens and more can be found on the site.



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## POP QUIZ HOT SHOT

This is has to do with lines. After all they are so important in the game.

You are a referee, therefore the most honest of men. Do the little test and then look up the answers without cheating. Cheating at these Tests, like cheating at Solitaire, really is an exercise in futility.

In this match the Irish Furniture is playing against the Welsh Cleaners.

**1.** With the Welsh Cleaners leading 21-16 and only moments left, Anthony Sidebord of the Irish Furniture gets the ball on an overlap and races down the touch-line on his right. He crosses the Welsh Cleaners' goal-line in the corner and turns round to make the conversion easier for Ronan O'Sofa. Sidebord runs on an arc as eager Welsh Cleaners players make for him but he charges along deep in in-goal and eventually dots down. You consult the television match official who tells you that Sidebord's right foot just clipped the dead-ball line on his way round.

You will

- a. award the try
- b. award a drop-out

**2.** Kevin Polisch, the Welsh Cleaners fullback, gathers the ball deep in his 22. He is under no pressure and runs up to the 22-metre line. He kicks for touch with his right foot. As he kicks his left foot is planted firmly on the 22-metre line. The ball flies downfield and goes directly into touch on the Irish Furniture ten-metre line.

You will have the line-out

- a. on the Welsh Cleaners 22

- b. a metre outside the Welsh Cleaners 22
- c. on the Irish Furniture ten-metre line.

**3.** The ball is lying in the Irish Furniture in-goal area, in touch -in-goal. Shane Duster, the Welsh Cleaners wing, speeds after the ball and dives at it. He is slightly short but puts his left hand down on the touch-in-goal line and reaches out with his right hand and places it on the ball, pressing it to the ground.

You will

- a. award the try
- b. award a drop-out

**4.** Ronan O'Sofa of the Irish Furniture kicks a high Garryowen. The ball, is dropping towards the Welsh Cleaners 22 where Kevin Polisch of the Welsh Cleaners waits for the ball. His right foot is anchored on the 22-metre line, his left foot stretching forward. He catches the ball about a metre outside his 22. He calls Mark.

You will

- a. award the free kick
- b. wave play on

**5.** Ronan O'Sofa of the Irish Furniture grubbers towards the Welsh Cleaners line where Kevin Polisch is waiting for the ball. His right leg is anchored on the goal-line, his left leg stretched forward as he meets the ball about a metre in front of the goal-line, draws back and dots the ball down on the goal-line.

You will

- a. award a drop-out
- b. award a five-metre scrum

**6.** Ronan O'Sofa if the Irish Furniture grubbers towards

the Welsh Cleaners line where Kevin Polisch is waiting for the ball. His right leg is anchored on the goal-line, his left leg stretched forward. The ball stops as it gets to him. He picks it up, draws back and dots the ball down on the goal-line.

You will

- a. award a drop-out
- b. award a five-metre scrum

**7.** Ten metres outside of his 22, Kevin Polisch, the Welsh Cleaners fullback, kicks for touch. The ball is dropping towards the touch-line on the Irish Furniture ten-metres line. Girvan Armchair, the Irish Furniture fullback, waits for the ball. His left foot is anchored on the touch-line, his right leg stretched into the field of play. When he catches the ball it is about half a metre before it reaches the touch line.

You will award

- a. a line-out where Armchair caught the ball, Irish Furniture ball
- b. a line-out where Armchair caught the ball, Welsh Cleaners ball
- c. a line-out 32 metres from the Welsh Cleaners goal-line, Irish Furniture ball.

Answers on a postcard to the usual address. Answers will be given next issue.



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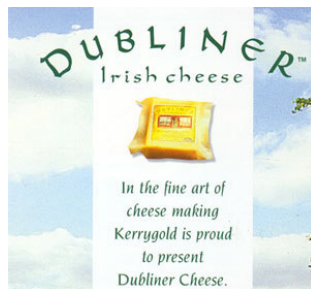
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Many of the articles included in this publication are open for discussion on the ARLB Message Board available at ARLB.net



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If you have any queries, articles or photos for inclusion in Go Whistle please contact Dan Wallace [danwallace05@gmail.com](mailto:danwallace05@gmail.com)