

Go Whistle



NEWSLETTER OF THE LEINSTER RUGBY REFEREES WWW.ARLB.IE
VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1 DECEMBER 2010

MESSAGE FROM ARLB PRESIDENT FRAN NOLAN

I would like to acknowledge excellent contribution to Leinster and Irish Rugby Referring by all our Active Referees, Assessors, Administrators, Coaches, and Fitness Coach, and everybody else involved in the ARLB.

It is important that we have competent referees to officiate at every level in Leinster. There are increasing demands particularly our active referees to be available to referee on any week day or evening, and weekends as well. It is becoming more challenging in

these tough economic times to find time to referee particularly during the week. I would like to acknowledge the support the wives, girlfriends, and family give to our Active Referees and Administrators. There has to be a balance between work, family and leisure time.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work being done by the Officers and Members of our Executive Committee. You are all aware that a new Management Committee has now been put into place. This Com-

mittee in under the Chairmanship of Dave Mac Donald and is now functioning very well.

Finally I would like to thank our sponsors Subaru for their continued support.

I would like to wish all our members and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Rewarding New Year

Fran Nolan
President ARLB



Fran Nolan

President 2010/11

IN THIS EDITION

Welcome to the Winter 2010 Edition of Go Whistle.

It has been a while since we have had a publication of this excellent newsletter but we hope to correct that during the season. We have lots of great articles and law

tidbits inside this edition including some special offers from businesses around Leinster who wish to support the referees.

We hope that the weather hasn't slowed you down too much and that the thaw has got you back out on to the field.

There are plenty of gyms out there with good offers and rugby clubs are only too willing to provide training facilities to referees during the cold snap(s).

Anyway enough waffle, enjoy your read and have a great Christmas.

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THE RUGBY COMMITTEE

Michael Carroll Chairman of the Rugby Committee talks about what is happening this season.

Recruitment

Faced with the prospect of a serious shortage of referees into the future, we have re-doubled our efforts in recent weeks to boost the numbers by recruiting new blood. Thanks to the co-ordination by Ken Henley Willis and David Keane of the concerted efforts of the Area Reps and Assessors, the Executive has been able to ratify several new members in recent weeks, with more in the pipeline undertaking practice matches at the moment. It is to be hoped that, once the ice-age has lifted, more new referees will come on stream in the New Year

Assessment

Under Tony deLacy's Chairmanship and calling on the able assistance and expertise of Dave McHugh and Tom Aplin, the assessors have been turning their attention to 'upping the game' on the assessment front - in particular, introducing greater consistency in scoring and reporting. A workshop was held in October at which consistency was discussed in detail and further work will be done on this as the season progresses. In the New Year, the outcome of the workshop will be 'road showed' - i.e., a presentation will be made available to Area Reps for the

Area meetings, with the aim of giving active referees an opportunity to input to the assessment process and gain further understanding of how the assessment process works. It is also intended to have some of our own senior referees (including former international referee, Donal Courtney) address the assessors on various issues during the second half of the season

Fitness

A pilot fitness programme is being conducted for a selection of referees, including development referees, by Karl Gilligan of KG Elite Fitness. This programme is proving to be very successful; not only are participants confirming that they are benefiting from the programme but the results are in evidence to coaches and assessors. The Rugby Committee will be considering ways of building on these initial forays into the whole fitness territory, as it has been identified as a priority area in the development of our referees

Coaching

Ken Henley Willis is co-ordinating our coaching programme, with coaching needs that emanate from assessment reports being targeted. A team of coaches is now in place and the Rugby Committee will keep this initiative under review so that it operates to best effect for our active referees

J 1 Project

A new initiative has been piloted this season that we are calling "J 1 Project". As you probably know, we have referees in IPAS and Development and there are programmes in place for these referees to provide for their development and hopefully advancement of their refereeing careers. The idea behind "J 1 Project" is to put in place another programme that has a 'reach' below the IPAS/ Development levels and which serves the dual purpose of allowing a broader number of referees hone their refereeing skills and at the same time ensure that ARLB has the best possible referees available to referee up to the top J 1 match levels. Pat Carolan has kicked off this programme on a pilot basis with a number of referees and the Rugby Committee will be revisiting the pilot in the New Year to build on the experience and broaden the numbers coming through the programme. Further detail will be made available soon.

Ref Cam

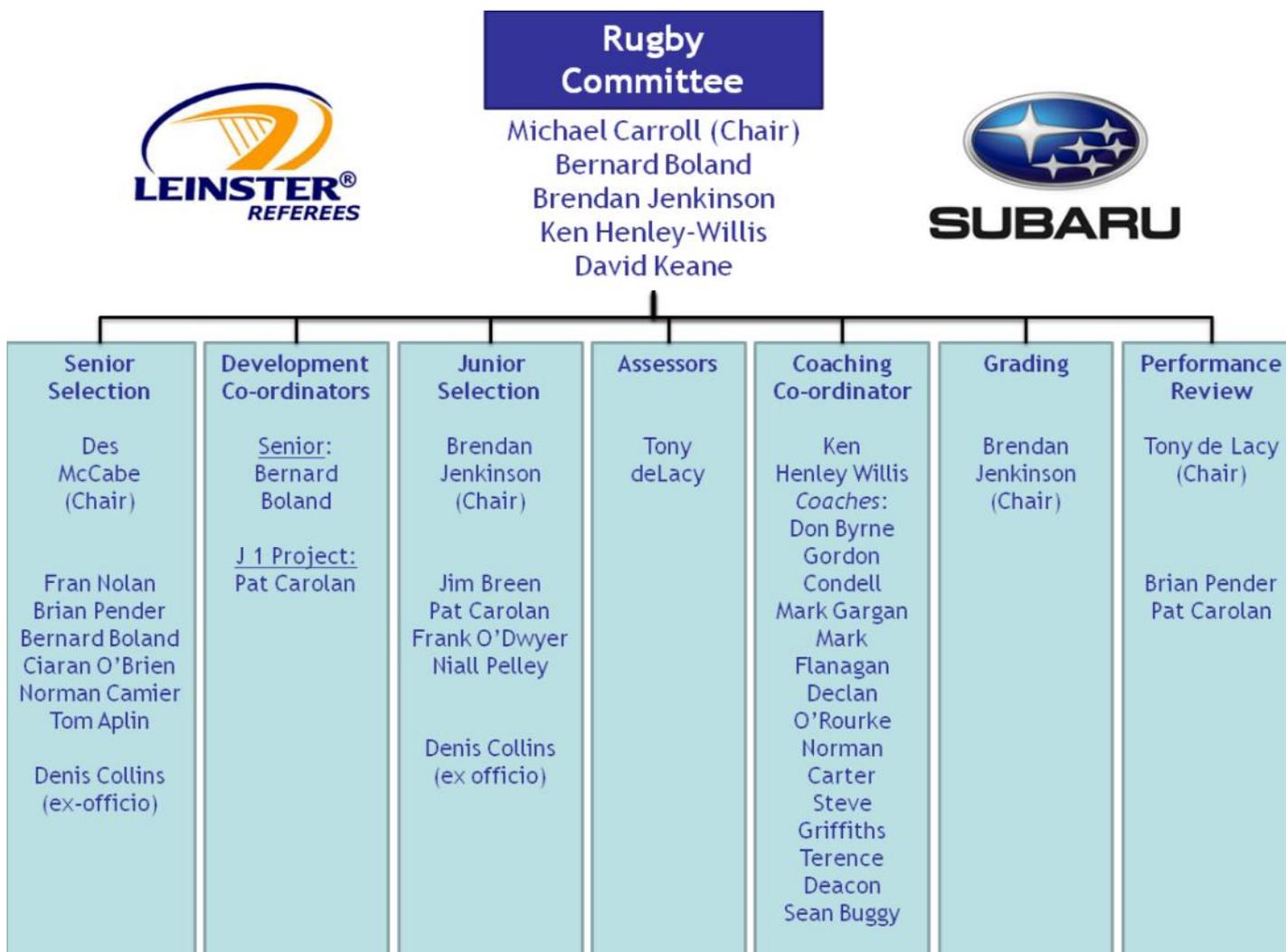
Bernard Boland has developed this initiative which is designed to further enhance and professionalise our efforts to develop our referees. Ron Maher (ARLB member and would-be rival of Steven Spielberg) is doing a fine job in performing the camera and sound duties. Essentially this initiative is intended to mirror insofar as possible the process

THE RUGBY COMMITTEE contd...

that it is place at AIL levels and above - the referee, who also has an audio link that picks up on his communications during

The Rugby Committee invited the Area Reps to its November meeting. The purpose of this was to ensure that we're

taken. So more anon on this front.



the match, is filmed as he goes about his refereeing duties. A DVD is produced for the referee and a senior referee meets up with him/her to de-brief the performance. Initially, this is being targeted at development referees and so far it is working very well. We will be keeping it under close review.

Area Reps

all pulling in the same direction and to explore opportunities to help each other out and to raise matters of common concern. Everyone is now committed to keeping this communication open in the remaining months of the season and as an initial step, the aforementioned 'roadshow' will be under-

Michael Carroll thanks all those involved on the RC and sub-committees and wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and successful 2011



COMMITTEE DETAILS

Just to fill you all in on who is on the other committees within the association. The Finance Committee members are as follows : Peter Donnelly Chairman, Brendan Lynch Hon Treasurer, Ned Cummins Ticket Admin, Frank O'Dwyer, Wayne Sheridan and John Clancy

On the Admin Committee we have Chris Reynolds Chair, Ciaran O'Brien Vice President ARLB, Tom Touhy Hon Sec ARLB, Tom Keating IT & vice Chair, Dan Wallace Communications.

The regional representatives on the executive committee are:

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LATEST REFEREE RECRUITS

Congratulations to the latest additions to the Leinster Rugby Referees.

Michael Carbery from Carlow, Greg Wynne from Carlow, John Dunne from Seapoint, John Flynn from Blackrock, Anthony Grehan from Athboy, Jason Hand from Edenderry, Andre Hillerbrand from Athy, Rhys Jones from Lansdowne, Philip Mullins from Skerries, David Strong from Stillorgan and Tim Towend from Railway Union.

FOCUS ON PHILIP MULLINS



North East Club, Skerries RFC, have a new member of the Leinster Rugby Referees.

Philip Mullins, a native of Skerries and former player, successfully passed his trial match and was recently elected as a full member of Leinster Rugby Referees. This con-

tinues a proud tradition for the North County Dublin seaside club who have produced a number of notable referees for the game over the years.

Speaking at a recent North East Area Meeting, Mark Power (Area Representative) congratulated Philip on his election and said that he was a worthy addition to the Referees in Leinster.

Philip was presented with his referee kit at the meeting and received a standing ovation from the attendees. He took up refereeing in his early thirties when he finished

FOCUS ON NEW RECRUIT—PHILIP MULLINS

his playing career and following a Referee Foundation course with David Keane IRFU, Philip officiated at a number of youth and schools fixtures in the area to de-

velop his refereeing skills and knowledge of the Laws.

Philip is married to Barbara and his other hobbies include hill-walking

and keeping fit. Well done Philip and we look forward to seeing you blowing the whistle at the Heineken Cup final in a couple of years.

BALL IN PLAY TIME—NOVEMBER INTERNATIONALS

In only one of the matches was the ball in play for more than half the 80 minutes - that was Wales against South Africa with Steve Walsh to referee it. The third longest the ball was in play was Wales against Fiji, that drawn match with Jérôme Graces to referee it. Both of Wales's other two matches were also above average which is somewhere around the 34 minutes' mark. There must be something about the Welsh way of playing.

The match with the ball in play second longest was France vs Argentina refereed by Jonathan Kaplan in Montpellier.

The match with the lowest playing time was France against Fiji in Nantes, which Andrew Small refereed. The match between Scotland and South Africa in the pouring Edinburgh rain produced over five minutes more ball-in-play time. The next lowest of the matches we have here was between the two pick-up teams - Barbarians and Springboks.

The times are as follows with referee in brackets):

Week 1

England vs New Zealand: 18 mins 22 secs + 16 mins 26 secs = 34 mins 48 secs (Romain Poite)
Ireland vs South Africa: 14 mins 52 secs + 18 mins 46 secs = 33 mins 36 secs (Wayne Barnes)
Wales vs Australia: 18 mins 3 secs + 18 mins 19 secs = 36 mins 22 secs (Nigel Owens)

Week 2

Wales vs South Africa: 18 mins 35 secs + 22 mins 41 secs = 41 mins 16 secs (Steve Walsh)
England vs Australia: 15 mins 53 secs + 21 mins 17 secs = 37 mins 10 secs (Craig Joubert)
Scotland vs New Zealand: 16 mins 58 secs + 17 mins 14 secs = 34 mins 12 secs (Dave Pearson)
Ireland vs Samoa: 15 mins 8 secs + 15 mins 14 secs = 30 mins 22 secs (Keith Brown)
France vs Fiji: 13 mins 20 secs + 15 mins 43 secs = 29 mins 3 secs (Andrew Small)

Week 3

Wales vs Fiji: 18 mins 39 secs + 19 mins 34 secs = 38 mins 13 secs (Jérôme Garcès)

Scotland vs South Africa: 17 mins 40 secs + 16 mins 42 secs = 34 mins 22 secs (Stuart Dickinson)
England vs Samoa: 15 mins 52 secs + 18 mins 01 = 33 mins 53 secs (Peter Fitzgibbon)
Ireland vs New Zealand: 17 mins 54 secs + 17 mins 35 secs = 35 mins 29 secs (Marius Jonker)
France vs Argentina: 17 mins 16 secs + 21 mins 11 secs = 38 mins 27 secs (Jonathan Kaplan)

Week 4

England vs South Africa: 15 mins 59 secs + 20 mins 43 secs = 36 mins 42 secs (George Clancy)
Ireland vs Argentina: 14 mins 07 secs + 19 mins 37 secs = 33 mins 44 secs (Mark Lawrence)
Wales vs New Zealand: 16 mins 13 secs + 18 mins 4 secs = 34 mins 17 secs (Alan Lewis)
France vs Australia: 15 mins 21 secs + 16 mins 39 secs = 32 mins 0 secs (Bryce Lawrence)

Additional match

Barbarians vs Springboks: 16 mins 10 secs + 15 mins 41 secs = 31 mins 51 secs (Pascal Gauzere)



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LAW AMENDMENTS

Law 5 Time

Amend Law 5.2 Half Time to read:

After half-time the teams change ends. There is an interval of not more than 15 minutes. The length of the interval is decided by the match organiser, the Union or the recognised body which has jurisdiction over the game. During the interval the teams, the referee and the assistant referees may leave the playing enclosure.

Delete Law 5.2 Paragraph 2

LAW 5 - Date Effective Jan 1, 2011

The Hand-off

Add new Definition:

Hand Off An action taken by a ball carrier to fend off an opponent by using the palm of the hand.

Add new paragraph to Law 7 Mode of Play:

A ball carrier may hand off an opponent.

Amend Law 10 4 (f) to read:

Playing an opponent without the ball. Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball, must not hold, push or obstruct

an opponent not carrying the ball.

Law 10 4 (j) Spear Tackles

Amend Law 10 4 (j) to read:

Lifting a player from the ground and dropping or driving that player into the ground whilst that player's feet are still off the ground such that the player's head and/or upper body come into contact with the ground is dangerous play.

Laws 21 and 22

Amend Law 21.2 to read

When a penalty or free kick is awarded in in-goal the mark for the kick is in the field of play, 5 metres from the goal line, in line with the place of infringement.

Sanction: Any infringement by the kicker's team results in a scrum 5 metres from the goal line in line with the mark. The opposing team throws in the ball.

Amend 21.4 (f) to read:

Kick taken in the in-goal. If a player retires into in-goal to take a penalty or free kick awarded in the field of play and a defending player by foul play prevents an opponent from scoring a try a penalty try is awarded.

Amend 21.4 (g) to read:

Out of play in-goal. If a player retires into in-goal to take a penalty or free kick awarded in the field of play and following the kick the ball goes into touch-in-goal, or on or over the dead ball line, or a defending player makes the ball dead before it has crossed the goal line, a 5 metre scrum is awarded. The attacking team throws in the ball.

Amend Law 21. 8 (g) to read:

If a free kick has been awarded and the player retires to in-goal to take it and the opponents charge and prevent the kick from being taken, a 5-metre scrum is ordered. The attacking team throws in the ball. If a free kick is taken in the in-goal, an opponent who legitimately plays it there can score a try.

Amend Law 18.2 (Mark) to read:

The kick is awarded at the place of the mark. If the mark is made in the in-goal the kick is awarded five metres from the goal line in line with where the mark was made.

All other Laws - Date Effective Dec 1, 2010

CONSISTENCY THE KEY AHEAD OF 2011

Continued promotion of consistency was the key message for the world's top referees and referee managers at the annual IRB High Performance Referees meeting in London recently.

causing obstruction
d) scrum engagement sequence
e) accuracy of application of the tackle Law

“The annual High Performance Referees meet-

The scrum continues to be a major focus area and the IRB High Performance Referees were reminded of their obligation to take charge of the scrum sequence and to ensure strict and consis-



Under the central theme of global and consistent performance, the meeting provided an opportunity to consider refereeing best practice and review performance in key areas of the Game as momentum builds towards Rugby World Cup 2011 in New Zealand.

With a return to attacking Rugby over the past year, IRB Referee Manager Paddy O'Brien reiterated the importance of continued consistent and universal application of Law in five key areas, in accordance with directives issued to all Unions in November 2009:

- a) offsidess at the ruck
- b) offside from kicks
- c) illegal maul formation

ing is a key element of the referee feedback and training process and enables us to review performances as a team, assess fitness objectives, consider the latest trends in the Game and reiterate the key focus areas to ensure consistency,” said O'Brien.

“Referees and the world's top coaches have bought into the obligation to penalise clear and obvious offences in the five areas that are our top priority. Collectively we are committed to promoting global consistency of the application of Law at Test and national competition level as we build to Rugby World Cup 2011.”

tent application of all aspects of scrum Law.

“The 2010 Tri Nations saw a 40% decrease in the number of scrum resets compared to the 2010 June Tier 1 Tests, so this area of the Game is improving. The coaches have all expressed their support of the referee leading the crouch, touch, pause, engage scrum sequence and sanctioning players who fail to follow the calling of the engagement procedure, particularly early engagement. The message to the referees is clear. We require greater consistency at the elite level and compliance is critical in this key area of the Game,” added O'Brien.

IRB ON PLAYERS WELFARE

The International Rugby Board Council approved amendments to two aspects of Law that will ensure that the welfare of players always comes first.

Amendments to Law governing the spear tackle and hand-off will operate across the Game from December 1, 2010, providing greater clarity on the definition of each action and in turn delivering a stronger disciplinary position.

The other Law amendments approved by Council were an adjustment to the maximum permitted duration of the half-time interval and clarity around the procedure for infringements committed in-goal.

Council Amends Spear Tackle Law

The IRB Council has reinforced its zero-tolerance stance towards all dangerous tackles by approving an amendment to the Law relating to the spear tackle.

An amendment to Law 10.4(j) has been approved to recognise the defensive actions of the tackled player when the arms are outstretched to break a fall and to further ensure the consistency of application of the appropriate sanction for offending players.

The amended Law 10.4(j) will now read: *Lifting a player from the ground and dropping or driving that player into the ground whilst that player's feet are still off the ground such that the player's head and/or upper body come into contact with the ground is dangerous play.*



The amended Law will operate globally from December 1, 2010.

New Hand-Off Definition Approved

Council also approved an amendment to Law 7 and 10.4(f) to ensure that there is an appropriate definition for the act of handing off or fending off an opponent.

Despite the legal hand-off being part of the Game at all levels, the act was not clearly defined in Law or referred to within the mode of play section.

The new definition is in-

tended to bring greater clarity to the act, minimising the potential for any confusion with regard to its place in the Game.

A definition has been added: *an action taken by a ball carrier to fend off an opponent by using the palm of the hand.*

The amended Law 10.4(f) will now read: *Playing an opponent without the ball. Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push or obstruct an opponent not carrying the ball.*

The amended Law will operate globally from December 1, 2010.

IRB Opens the Way for 15 Minute Half-Time

The IRB Council approved an amendment to Law 5 which will permit a match organiser, Member Union or recognised body with jurisdiction over the match to implement a half-time interval of up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The amendment to Law 5.2 will now read: *After half-time teams change ends. There is an interval of not more than 15 minutes. The length of the interval is decided by the*

IRB ON PLAYERS WELFARE

match organiser, the Union or the recognised body which has jurisdiction over the game. During the interval the teams, the referee and the assistant referees may leave the playing enclosure.

The amendment comes after extensive consultation with Member Unions, including an IRB sanctioned trial in the English Premiership in 2007-08 to establish whether there would be any change to the risk of injury by extending the half-time interval.

The analysis of the Pre-

miership trial established that there was no additional injury risk and that the extended half-time period could present player welfare benefits.

The revised Law will operate from January 1, 2011.

Law 21 and 22 - Infringements in-goal

Council also approved amendments to Laws 10, 21 and 22 to ensure greater consistency between the Laws and provide clarity for infringements committed within the in-goal area.

The mark for penalty kicks and free kicks awarded as a result of an infringement in the in-goal area will be awarded in the field of play and that any kicks taken in the in-goal are as a result of players retiring to take kicks.

The awarding of sanctions (scrums, penalty kicks and free kicks) for offences in the in-goal will all be five metres from the goal line and in line with the infringement. The awarding of all scrums and kicks from actions taken in the in-goal will be five metres from the goal line.

ANNUAL SEMINAR REVISITED

The Leinster Rugby Referees annual seminar took place on the 15th August in St Mary's College RFC...

Fran Nolan (President, Association of Referees Leinster Branch) opened the seminar by welcoming everyone and thanked Michael Fanagan (Vice President, St Mary's College RFC) for the use of their magnificent facilities. Michael replied by saying he was very honoured that the Referees had chosen Templeville Road as the venue for the seminar.

The M.C for the day G.P. Maher started proceedings by introducing the first speakers Leinster

prop Stan Wright and IRFU referee Dudley Phillips who gave a talk on scrum protocol. It was very informative to listen to an international player and his insight into front row play, but he did not give away too many front row secrets! Stan added his south sea island charm and wit to the discussions which followed.

Dave McHugh (IRFU Referee Department) gave an update on all the law interpretations for this season. He stressed that consistency was very important in every aspect of today's game and that referees have a part to play.

Karl Gilligan of KG Elite

Performance gave an excellent presentation on Fitness, nutrition and injury prevention. This season a number of the top referees in Leinster will avail of Karl's programme and the association's international referees Alain Rolland and Alan Lewis have benefited from Karl's programme.

Michael Carroll (Chairman of the Rugby Committee) gave an update on the new management and administration structure in place for the Leinster Rugby Referees and it is hoped that the knowledge from members in their own professions will be put to use within the organisation (contd P16)

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IRB APP PUTS LAWS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The International Rugby Board has launched an innovative application for universal download, providing another digital accessibility dimension for the Laws of the Game.

The first ever IRB app, which sits alongside the official IRB Laws website is now available at www.irblaws.com and also via the App Store. It will be an invaluable tool for all those who need regular and quick access to the Game's Laws when on the move.

Developed by Ireland-based firm MobaNode, the app will enable users to consult Laws and watch video examples and animations to build a greater understanding of Law application. There are over 80 embedded videos, with more than 200 videos available via internet links as well as 49 referee signals detailed in words,

pictures and videos.



“This application represents another significant step forward in the delivery of our key training and education tools,” said IRB Training and Medical Manager Mark Harrington.

“There are many benefits of the application and the Laws of the Game will now be at everyone's fingertips, wherever they are in the world, and can be downloaded for free.”

The invaluable tool for the global Rugby family has been produced in English and can be downloaded from www.irblaws.com or via the App Store, and will be available in French and Spanish shortly.

It also contains links to the portfolio of interactive IRB websites designed to educate and inform the global Rugby family, including www.irbrugbyready.com, www.irbcoaching.com, www.keeprugbyclean.com and www.irbplayerelfare.com.

The application includes information on Laws 1-22 of the IRB Laws of the Game, plus Seven-a-side and Under 19 variations and contains a bookmarking feature allowing any specific clause to be marked for quick future reference.

IPAS PARENTS AND HEROES

A bit congratulations to Gary Glennon and Stephen McCann who recently became fathers to beautiful babies.

Steve became father to baby Ethan whilst Gary became father to baby Oran—two future referees in the making.

Meanwhile another IPAS referee Simon Rogan became saviour of a street during the recent bad weather.

Simon was seen by a number of referees in the Windy Arbour area of Dublin 14 shovelling snow from Highfield Park much

to the delight of the residence of the area. We need more business owners like Simon Rogan in this world. Well done Simon.



6 NATIONS APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

The International Rugby Board has announced the Match Official appointments for the 2011 RBS Six Nations Championship, which will be played between February 4 and March 19.

The appointments were made by the IRB Match Official Selection Committee at its meeting in Dublin this week following a comprehensive review of international referee, assistant referee and television match official performances during the recent November Tests.

With Rugby World Cup 2011 in New Zealand less than 10 months away the appointments will give the world's top referees a further chance to cement their place in the IRB Panel for Rugby's

global showcase tournament.

Leinster and Ireland's Alain Rolland, who refereed the Rugby World Cup 2007 final, will take charge of the opening match of the Championship on February 4 when Wales face England in the only Friday night match. The selection also sees Steve Walsh take charge of his first Six Nations match since 2008 when he referees England versus France at Twickenham on February 26. In total there are 10 Referees selected for the 15 Championship matches.

"We are beginning the countdown towards Rugby World Cup 2011 and a streamlined panel of 10 top referees who will officiate at the tournament," said IRB Match Official

Selection Committee Chairman and IRB Council Member David Pickering. "However, there are still 10 months to go until the showcase tournament kicks off and there is plenty of time for places to be secured. We have worked hard on consistency across the board and referees and coaches have universally bought into the strict application of five key areas of Law."

"Collectively we are focused on further promoting consistency across all areas of officiating to ensure that those selected for Rugby World Cup 2011 are the best and that they will be in peak physical and performance condition for what promises to be a special tournament," added Pickering.

DATE	TIME	MATCH	VENUE	REFEREE	AR1	AR2	TMO
04 Feb	19:45	Wales v England	Millennium Stadium, Cardiff	A.Rolland	A.Lewis	S.McDowell	J.Yuille
05 Feb	14:30	Italy v Ireland	Stadio Flaminio, Rome	R.Polte	J.Garces	D.Changleng	G.Warren
05 Feb	17:00	France v Scotland	Stade de France, Paris	W.Barnes	A.Small	S.Terhegge	G.De Santis
12 Feb	14:30	England v Italy	Twickenham, London	C.Joubert	P.Fitzgibbon	P.Allan	T.Redmond
12 Feb	17:00	Scotland v Wales	Murrayfield, Edinburgh	G.Clancy	R.Polte	S.McDowell	G.Hughes
13 Feb	15:00	Ireland v France	Aviva Stadium, Dublin	D.Pearson	W.Barnes	D.Changleng	G.Warren
26 Feb	14:30	Italy v Wales	Stadio Flaminio, Rome	W.Barnes	D.Pearson	J.Lacey	I.Ramage
26 Feb	17:00	England v France	Twickenham, London	S.Walsh	A.Lewis	T.Hayes	G.De Santis
27 Feb	15:00	Scotland v Ireland	Murrayfield, Edinburgh	N.Owens	A.Small	P.Gauzere	G.Hughes
12 Mar	14:30	Italy v France	Stadio Flaminio, Rome	B.Lawrence	P.Fitzgibbon	S.Terhegge	J.Yuille
12 Mar	17:00	Wales v Ireland	Millennium Stadium, Cardiff	J.Kaplan	C.Joubert	P.Allan	G.Warren
13 Mar	15:00	England v Scotland	Twickenham, London	R.Polte	J.Garces	C.Damasco	T.Redmond
19 Mar	14:30	Scotland v Italy	Murrayfield, Edinburgh	A.Rolland	A.Lewis	J.Lacey	H.Watkins
19 Mar	17:00	Ireland v England	Aviva Stadium, Dublin	B.Lawrence	N.Owens	T.Hayes	G.DeSantis
19 Mar	19:45	France v Wales	Stade de France, Paris	C.Joubert	J.Kaplan	S.McDowell	G.Hughes

LEINSTER RUGBY STORE

The Leinster Rugby Store are offering all referees a 10% discount on all purchases. To avail of this offer either produce your referees card in store or state you are a referee when ordering

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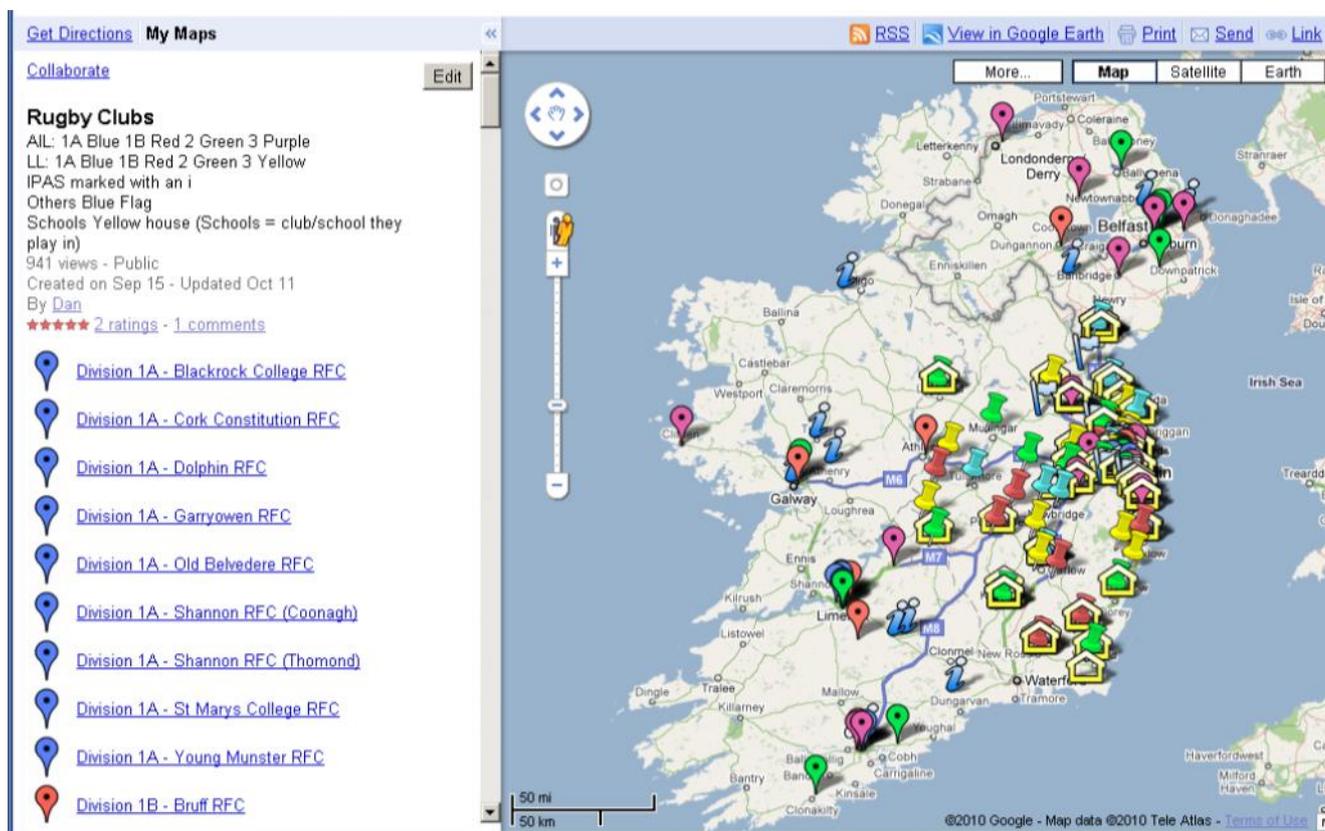
They will also be informing us of special offers during the season. Follow them on facebook at

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NEW LEINSTER AND AIL CLUB MAP



Don't get lost on your way to your next game. We have created a map of all Leinster and AIL clubs to guide you on your way. The map is available through

Google maps @ <http://goo.gl/5gbBn>. We have made every effort to ensure it is as accurate as possible. Don't forget there is new Google street view so you can

zoom in on the map and make sure the club is where you think it is. If you find any errors in it please let us know and we will fix them as soon as possible.

15% DISCOUNT AT TOTALRUGBY



The online rugby store www.totalrugby.ie are happy to offer the Lein-

ster Referees a 15% discount on any purchases from their website. The purchase process is very straight forward.

In order to avail of the offer the referee just emails them at info@totalrugby.ie with the product(s) they are

looking to purchase and their contact details we will then call them take payment and have the goods delivered to their doorstep.



MONSIEUR KEVIN BEGGS

Kevin Beggs came to Ireland in 1995 from his native New Zealand, originally he settled in Wicklow but in 2002 he moved to Ratoath in Co Meath and shortly afterwards joined Ashbourne Rugby Club.

It was while in Christchurch New Zealand his rugby career started where he played for the

Harry Ardill who encouraged him from the start of his refereeing career in 1999 by giving him his first rugby laws book. Bernard Boland then also maintained his interest.

Kevin remembers his first trial match as a Leinster Rugby referee - it was the same day New Zealand lost to France in the 1999

Over the years Kevin has enjoyed all of his games, but most notably were the Towns Cup final, his first Heineken Cup match, refereeing Seapoint against Monkstown in front of a very large crowd in the Leinster League, but his biggest thrill was in May this year while representing Ireland and Ashbourne at No. 5 at the Amlin Chal-



Marist Club, and when Kevin arrived in Ireland he thought about continuing his rugby career, but decided against it and instead opted to take up the whistle and become a referee.

Kevin credits the late

World Cup semi-final. Now in his sixth season as an IRFU referee, he has refereed at all three levels of AIL as well as officiating as touch judge in Magners League, Amlin Challenge and Heineken Cup. He has also refereed in many Leinster finals over the years.

allenge Cup final in Marseille between Cardiff Blues and Toulon.

The match was played in the Stade Velodrome Marseille in the south of France and Cardiff Blues defeated the French team on their home ground.

MONSIEUR KEVIN BEGGS contd...

Each of the officials wore a specially commissioned jersey for the occasion. On Kevin's return he duly had his very unique jersey framed for the purpose of presenting it to Ashbourne Rugby Club. Kevin presented his jersey to the Chairman of Ashbourne R.F.C. Rod Cosgrave (see photo) and it is now proudly displayed in the clubhouse.

He is on the ARLB executive and is also a valued member of the executive committee in the club as well.

He is quick to point out the great work that the other club referees in



Ashbourne RFC have been doing over the years including, Declan Mahon, Joe Elliot, and Pearse

McGrath and our latest referee Helen O'Reilly.

THE WINE BUFF



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Thank to Eanna O'Dowd for organising this.



SPORTS CHARITABLE TRUST



People all over the world play sport. They run, they swim, they kick, they catch, they jump, they shoot, they tackle, they cycle, they ski, they dive. They also get injured. Many seriously. Some suffer a catastrophic injury while participating in the sport they love.

Sports Charitable Trust has been created by sports people for such sports people. Developed in Ireland in 2010, it is envisaged to become sport's global charity bringing all sports people in all countries in all sports together to mark the love of their sport and to assist their fellow fallen comrades. It assists people who suffer catastrophic injury while playing sport.

Sports Charitable Trust exists for all sports people and their families. The beneficiaries will have suffered a catastrophic injury. Their families and friends will be devastated and will suffer along with the athlete. Sports Charitable Trust challenges every sports person to be interested in and respect their fellow sports person.

Put simply, it is the one sports team every sports person should support!

About Sports Charitable Trust and Eamonn Sayers-founder of Sports Charitable Trust.



As a passionate sportsman and member of a family who lost someone from a sports injury, the creation of Sports Charitable Trust is something I treasure. Permanent paralysis, brain damage and death should not be associated with people participating in sport. Catastrophic injury is devastating not only to the injured sports person, but also to the sports person's family, friends, community and the sport. They live with a condition that affects their family life, their ability to work, and their capacity to enjoy even the most mundane everyday activities that others take for granted.

I have been involved in sport for over 30 years - as a player, manager, mentor, referee, administrator and spectator. My fervent wish is that every sports person makes the decision that whatever team and sport they sup-

port that they will all join the same team - the Sports Charitable Trust team - the world's first and only sports team.

My cousin (Stuart Mangan) suffered a C1 complete spinal injury while playing rugby on April 5th, 2008. Stuart's reaction to his injury was extraordinary as he demonstrated a fantastic joie de vivre. To watch so many sports people rally to his cause was truly uplifting and was a major boon to Stuart and his family. Sadly Stuart passed away in August 2009.

With the severity of his injury, there was a need to raise a large seven figure sum to allow Stuart a good quality of life. There were many fundraising events held on his behalf all over the world. The response from people in sport was amazing.

I often wondered throughout the fundraising efforts what happens the sports person who suffers a catastrophic injury yet has no support network. Additionally, why does a person support an injured sports person in their sport and not in another's?

Some sports, especially

SPORTS CHARITABLE TRUST contd..

those with a high-impact nature, carry an inherent risk of major injury, and so a certain number of direct catastrophic injuries are going to be unavoidable, perhaps a player being flipped during a tackle and coming down head first onto the ground, or a player being inadvertently struck on the top of the helmet by another player's knee. Even sports that are not considered to be "collision sports" carry an inherent risk of major injury such as a swimmer being hit by an ocean wave.

The main functions of Sports Charitable Trust are:

To raise awareness, support and economic benefit for people who suffer catastrophic injury in sport

To undertake, promote, protect, encourage and advance medical and scientific research relating to serious injuries in sports and to promote post-graduate medical training

To promote such research and training by creating fellowships, establishing scholarships, by making grants and other benefactions and providing equipment and other fa-

cilities for research and training in sports injury

1. To establish or contribute to the establishment of research laboratories, hospitals, clinics or other institutions devoted solely to the attainment of the above purposes.

Every one has or will feel the pain of missing out on playing sport. Some of us change from being a player and become a coach, or referee, or manager, or referee, or administrator, or spectator or any combination of these. We stay involved in sport in a different role, but (and crucially) on our own terms.

Unfortunately, however, some do not get to choose their own terms. Some sports people suffer catastrophic injuries. A catastrophic sports injury is a frightening prospect for any player, and his, or her, family. Over the years there have been a number of players and athletes seriously injured

involving various forms of paralysis, brain damage, spinal damage and other injuries.

In an ideal world people would not suffer catastrophic injury when participating in sport. However, sadly, that is not the case, and seriously injured players do need support.

Every person can help the Sports Charitable Trust in the aims to assist those unfortunate players and athletes who have suffered catastrophic injury. Your help will make a difference. The fantastic support Stuart received from sports people helped make a difference in his life. Let's be there for the next Stuart.

If you are a sports person, be you a player, a supporter an administrator or simply have family and friends playing sport, then Sports Charitable Trust exists for you. Please support it. Join the world's first sports team - Sports Charitable Trust.





SEMINAR contd

The afternoon session started with a talk by IRFU referee Kevin Beggs on one of the most talked-about incidents on a rugby pitch the use of red and yellow cards and the procedure that follows after the game is over, which is the report writing and the disciplinary hearing.

Brendan Jenkinson (Chairman of Senior selection) gave an update on the grading structure which to lay people is the different levels at which

referees can officiate at.

Leinster Rugby Referees President Fran Nolan (Greystones RFC) presented tankards to referees who had officiated at their first finals last season.

To finish the seminar one of the best referees to have ever officiated on the international stage Brian Stirling from the Ulster Society of Rugby Football Referees told

stories of different experiences he had encountered during his career from players to coaches. He encouraged young referees to listen to advice given from senior referees. He said that no matter what level you referee at it is all much appreciated and that it matters at grassroots levels as well as the international stage and the same enjoyment should be derived from it.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES AND A FEW OTHER NOTES

The annual golf outing was again a great success this season. A torrential downpour delayed tee-off by an hour but in the end we got through it. Another massive turnout this season with many of the younger golfers out in force. It was an old head that won out in the end—Brendan Lynch's tigeresque performance saw him top the table at the end of the 18 holes.

The following dates have been set for the next golf outings.

2011 Friday , September, 9th. 1.30pm to 3.30pm.
2012 Friday , September, 7th. 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Last years annual dinner was superb. The food and company were excellent in the beautiful surround-

ing of the Green Isle Hotel. This year we will have a different venue but the same fun and frolics as always. I believe that the date for the 2010 /11 dinner is Saturday March 26th but keep an eye on the website for updates.

Don't forget to rank your favourite rugby club this season for the club of the year award!!! Last years winners Malahide will be tough to beat but the steaks on offer in Naas are hard to beat as well.

Don't forget as well as our website www.arlb.ie we have a facebook page (Leinster Rugby Referees) and twitter account—@leinsterreferee. We will be updating the website format and content over the festive period with

the hope of bringing you a fine new website in January.

Finally well done to our referees out on the international circuit. Alain Rolland and Alan Lewis continue to lead the way in International appointment with Dudley Phillips following in Heineken Cup and Amlin Challenge Cup, a number of referees are officiating at British and Irish Cup level and of course David Keane is carrying the sevens flag recently in Dubai and George (where he refereed the final). Keep up the good work fellas.

Just one more piece of news is the birth of Son Harry to Filipe and Aedin Fiel



END OF YEAR REVIEW—PLANET RUGBY—IRELAND

Let's not sugarcoat it, Declan Kidney's outfit hasn't really set the world alight during this freezing cold month. And with off-the-field ticketing problems coupled by financial events - that have dominated the past few weeks' newspaper headlines - all is far from rosy in the Emerald Isle.

Down to brass tacks with results for a moment and Ireland recorded a 50/50 record, defeating Samoa and Argentina in between of falling to South Africa and New Zealand. It was probably expected in truth but what wasn't was their lack of imagination against the so-called southern nations. Worrying signs indeed, particularly with their reputation of not being able to out-class the lesser teams in their Pool during the 2007 World Cup.

It's not half as worrying as the empty seats during the Boks' visit though. Only 35,517 turned up for the game, leaving some 15,000 tickets unsold. Why? Asked to cough up 340 euros (£296), many

supporters stayed at home and that remained the case even when the IRFU changed tack to offer combined two-match deals costing either 191 or 151 euros (£166 or £131). It was far from ideal and didn't get much better as the month wore on.

Throughout November there were pockets of unoccupied green chairs in the Dublin arena in what was supposed to be a celebration of their newly-renovated home. To be fair, the signs were never good when the Munster/Connacht v Leinster/Ulster 'spectacle' was a largely second-string affair.

Questions need answering in terms of what is going on at the top. Reports are now saying that the IRFU will take a €1.1m (£940k) hit after deciding on Monday to cut their prices for the Six Nations fixtures against France and England. I suppose it is at least a move forwards.

Rant over and onto the

team itself. Yes, there was some rugby played over the past four weekends, but only a clutch of players put their hand up. They were **Gordon D'Arcy, Jamie Heaslip, Stephen Ferris and Andrew Trimble.**

At a push we can give **Devin Toner and Sean O'Brien** a pat on the shoulder for their performance when called upon but their selection proved only a one-off as Kidney went back to type following the Samoa win.

Is that the problem? Not moving forward with their youth after winning the Grand Slam in 2009? It seemed an issue at one point, but with Ronan O'Gara, John Hayes and Marcus Horan now seemingly not first-choice, does the finger point to backs coach Alan Gaffney?

Results P 11 W 5 L 6

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We've unusually had a few letters to the editor this month, some even related to law.

Dear Editor,

My husband left the last edition of Go Whistle lying around and I thought I would write to you for a suggestion. It is an excellent publication. My husband is constantly getting slagged by his fellow referees about his time keeping. Apparently he is often close to late for matches and they often run over time. I think he plays a lot of injury time. Can you suggest a Christmas present for him?

Mrs Bob.

Dear Mrs Bob,

Many thanks for your kind words. Sorry to hear that your husband has difficulty keeping time. Might I suggest the following watch: The Casio Sport RFT-100-



2VER Phys Referee/Multi-Sport Watch. It is readily available from Ama-

zon and other such sites. The watch is designed to vibrate at a set time and will alert your husband to blow his whistle. If you are feeling flush Graham watches are the official 6 Nations watch and have beautiful watches. Ed.

Dear Ed,

I picked up a copy of Go Whistle while recently attending a disciplinary hearing in the branch. I have 35 years as a player up to national level and I am now starting out as a referee.

My first question is in a ruck the player going to ground with the ball immediately places the ball back. According to the 2010 law arriving team-mates are not allowed to "bind" or attach their hands/arms onto him thus preventing the opposition from getting to the ball. Is this regarded as sealing the ball and is it a penalty?

My second question is at a line-out when a quick throw in is taken does the line of touch remain at the point the ball went into touch and does this prevent the kicker's team-mates from crossing the line of touch and attempting to tackle the

player who is receiving the quick throw in?

Thank you.

New Ref

Dear New Ref.

Poacher turned game-keeper eh? The law states that a player joining a ruck must bind onto the ruck with at least one arm around the body of another player of either team, using the whole arm. The law also states that players need to be on their feet when they play the ball. Players are allowed to protect the ball by standing over the ball. Should any player fall on the ruck and prevent other from playing or contesting for the ball, they will be penalized.

Referees need to make sure that the ball that went out is used; also make sure that the ball was not made dead. Quick throw-in can be taken anywhere where the ball went out or anywhere behind the mark. The kicker's team-mates need to be onside before advancing. There is no offside line at a quick throw-in. In other words players may cross the line-of-touch or indeed play from beyond it.

Ed

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...contd

Dear Editor,

I've been playing a lot of Jonah Lomu rugby on my Playstation 1 over the last few weeks due to the cold weather and lack of games. The great Bill McLaren refers to No Side during the game. What is No Side?

Regards,

Purp Machine.

Dear Purp Machine,

Sony recently introduced the PlayStation 3—it is well worth saving up to get one. No side is an **antiquated term used to describe the end of the match, It was superseded by full time.**

Ed

Dear Mr Ed,

In a maul situation, where the maul is moving I often see players from the team without the ball wrestling themselves into a position on the opposition side, effectively preventing the ball coming out side - I blow for coming into an offside position. Is that correct?

JM

Dear JM,

Yes, the penalty will be for offside. The law states players joining a maul must do so from behind the foot of the hindmost team mate. The player may join alongside this player and if the player joins the maul from the opponents' side, or in front of the hindmost team mate, the player is offside.

Ed

Dear Ed,

I have noticed in a few matches lately on television that the referees are awarding a scrum for an "accidental obstruction". I was under the impression that an obstruction, accidental or deliberate, resulted in a penalty against the offending team? I have heard the referees saying "accidental obstruction" but I don't see any law that differentiates between a deliberate and accidental obstruction. Could you clarify that?

RC

Dear RC,

It all depends on the

situation. Referees look at a few things such as the possibility of the opposition gaining an advantage either by quick turn-over and possibility of a try being scored. The other possibility (accidental) occurs when it was no fault of any of the involved players. It just so happens that the blocker is caught in the middle of the potential tackler and ball-carrier, and then the referee will award a scrum to the defending team.

Whereas with deliberate obstruction, the referee can clearly see the attacking team taking out possible tacklers and this prevents the defending team from making their tackle(s).

I hope that this answers your question.

Ed

Please send on any questions you have and we'll get one of our top officials to answer.



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If you have any queries, articles or photos for inclusion in Go Whistle please

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