

# ENGAGE!



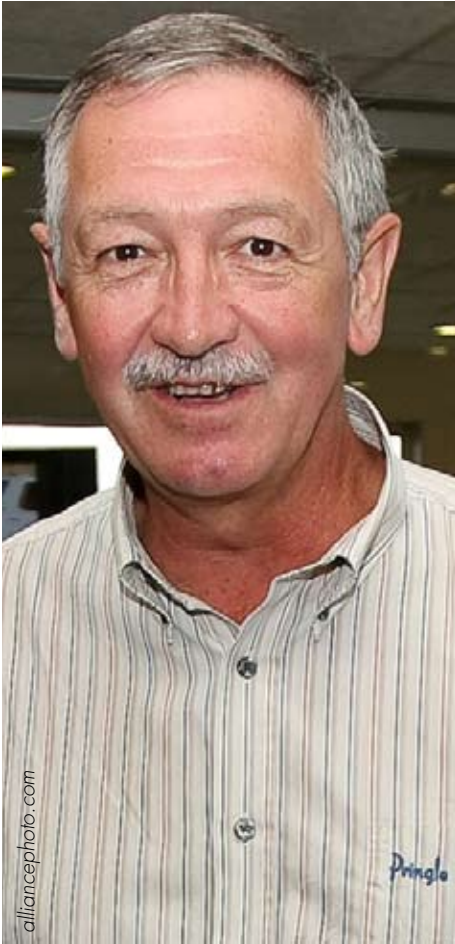
W.P. RUGBY  
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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the Western Province Rugby Referees' Society

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## A word from the chairman



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**It's a new year and with the club season set to get under way, referees in Western Province are preparing themselves for a very busy April and May.**

At the Annual General Meeting in October last year, the new committee was elected, with the following individuals being appointed to their respective portfolios:

- Dan de Villiers – chairman
- Arthur Southgate – vice-chairman, which includes finance, clothing and clubhouse stock
- Ronnie Bourbon-Leftley – match and performance reviewing, assessments
- Roderick Barry – coaching
- James Apollis – appointments, discipline, transformation and club liaison
- Johan Pieterse – training and education
- Alan Becker – administration (across all portfolios)
- Ben Theron – WP Rugby referee manager

At the AGM, the new committee dedicated themselves to strive for, and stay committed to, our Referees' vision and mission statement and the values that form an essential part of the Society. You can view these and the contact details of the new committee on [www.wprugbyrefs.co.za](http://www.wprugbyrefs.co.za).

Important goals and information to note for the 2010 season:

- Performance reviewing – quality reports by well trained performance reviewers in accordance with SARU requirements.
- Training – a new training policy and programme to be put in place.
- Selection/grading/appointments – to be done in accordance with the leagues system in WP Rugby, in a new structure to be developed and ready for the start of the 2010 season.
- Coaching – a high-profile portfolio, overseeing fitness programmes, regional coaching and referee performance, which impacts on all referees.
- Sourcing and developing referees at all levels in the Society that's equitably representative of the rugby public in Western Province, in accordance with SARU's broad-based transformation process and charter.
- Finance and sponsorship – we're privileged to have on board our main sponsor Duraline (Pty) Ltd, without whose contribution we wouldn't be able to achieve all our financial needs.
- Administration will be of the highest standard.

We as rugby referees are ready to build on our relationship with WP Rugby and look forward to delivering effective and quality performances throughout the 2010 rugby season.

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the WP Rugby Referees**

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# 2010 Abante Golf Day

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## The Western Province Rugby Referees Society's Abante Golf Day, always an anticipated event, raised R30 000 for referee development in the province.

Held at the Bellville Golf Club in mid-February, it attracted over 100 people, including referees, administrators, former players, sponsors and friends of the Society.

The day began with 28 four-balls ready and willing to tackle the green slopes. It was a hot day in Cape Town, so provisions were made to ensure that several 'wet' holes – places where players could rehydrate while on the march – were located around the course.

Once the sun started to set, new WPRRS chairman Dan de Villiers started proceedings with a few kind words before the prize-giving began. Seventeen four-ball prizes were handed out, with Andre Thiar's Albarit Investments coming out as the leading group for the day. Considering the calibre of their opposition, this was no mean achievement.

WP Rugby referee manager Ben Theron organised the event with the help of administrative assistant Tracey Dunbar. Thanks go to:

- Herman Pretorius of Abante
- AM Marketing
- Peninsula Beverages and Powerade
- Simba Chips
- SAB
- Distell
- Koelenhof Wines
- Discovery
- SARU
- WP Rugby
- Dairy Bell
- The Bellville Golf Club
- Edusport Travel
- Efraim Manuel
- Stellenbosch Rugby Academy for providing the students who assisted on the greens
- Marn Builders for the use of their truck
- The Pro Shop
- Ronnie Bourbon-Leftley

Events like the Annual Abante Golf Day and Black-Tie Dinner rely on the generosity of many sponsors and WPRRS is extremely fortunate: Abante has been the anchor supporter for the nine years that the Golf Day has taken place. Special thanks to everyone who helped make this year's event another fantastic outing on the local rugby calendar.



Abante Investment's four ball (from left to right) of Andrew Pretorius, Herman Pretorius, Michal Calitz, Christopher Pretorius



Edusport Travel's four ball (from left to right) of Bredon Bell, William Footman, Des Carr and Alan Footman with their prize.



Doug Dyers, Pat Kuhn, and Theuns Roodman with SuperSport's Jeremy Fredericks.



Rassie Erasmus celebrates his tee shot with an old-fashioned high five.

# A true blue ref

Adam Wakefield

**Paul Dobson's love for rugby began when he went to Newlands for the first time in 1945, and his passion has grown ever since. Engage spoke to the Society's honorary life president.**

**D**yed-in-the-wool rugby man Paul Dobson has refereed over 40 top-class games, and is one of South Africa's leading minds when it comes to the Laws, their application and the way they influence the game. A prolific rugby journalist, he's written several books on the game and his articles appear regularly on rugby365.com. He also manages content for the SA Referees website.

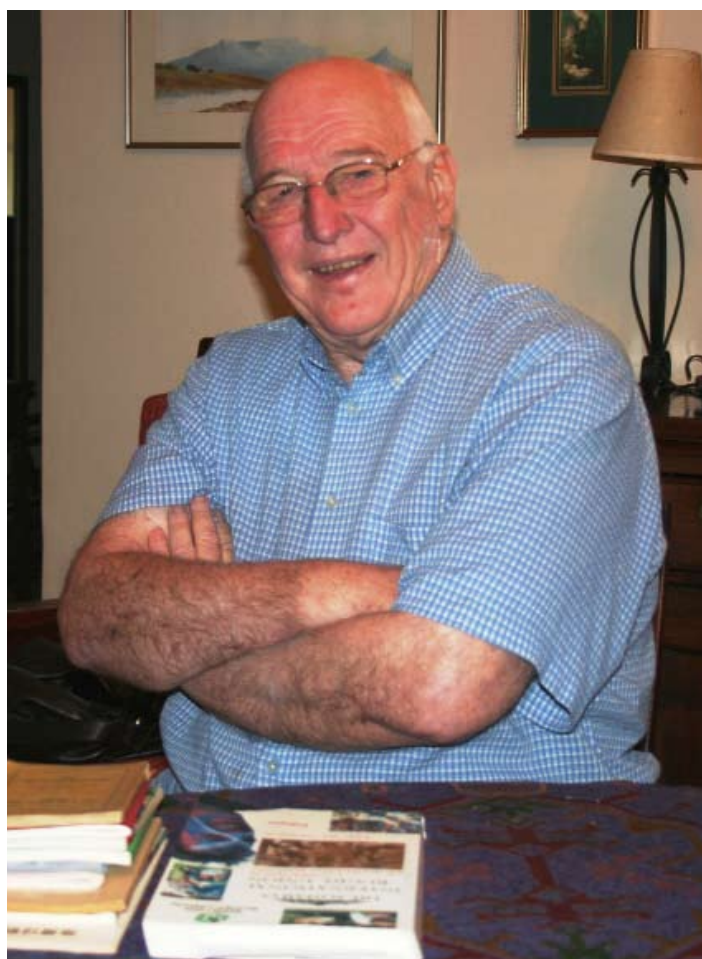
This is a man whose passion for refereeing is almost palpable. 'Being a referee provided a great opportunity to meet players and fellow referees. Referees especially share a common bond because their role in the game is unique.'

Born in Plumstead in 1935 and schooled at St Joseph's Marist College in Rondebosch, Paul has been involved with rugby for over half a century. He refereed his first game in 1955 while a student in Pietermaritzburg, and joined the WPRRS in 1968, serving as its chairman from 1978 to 1992. Paul coached rugby at Bishops for 29 years, which he describes as 'a joy'.

**'The game is faster and as such referees have had to adapt.'**

Having seen rugby progress from the amateur to professional eras at top level, Paul believes it would be foolish to try to compare modern referees to those of 20 years ago. 'In the amateur era, you were given a Law book and left to learn on your own,' he points out. 'When it came to actually learning the Laws, you stole with your eyes. These days, the guys are so much better prepared. There are fitness trainers, Law tests, sponsored kit and psychological testing, among other things. The game is faster and as such referees have had to adapt.'

One thing that hasn't changed since the arrival of professionalism is referee abuse, but Paul puts this into perspective. 'While referees



Paul Dobson with his Law books, including the first-ever Law book to be translated into Afrikaans in 1937.

at the top today are treated better than in the past, there isn't anything that can be done to stop [the abuse]. That's just the way things are. When a team loses, there are two ways the losing team can go: they can either say, "We were beaten by a better team," or they can blame the referee, which is a cop-out. It's a burden referees just have to carry.'

Paul's proudest moment came when he was chairman of the Society. At the time, the different representative bodies for rugby union in Western Province were in the process of merging, with the process structured over a two-year period. But, Paul explains, 'At the end of 1991, the different referee societies decided to merge a full year ahead of the unions. The referees believed the artificial situation at the time wasn't in the best interests of the game. The fact that we managed to come together and do that before the unions was fantastic and something I'm really proud of.'

At the age of 75, Paul's passion for rugby still burns as brightly as ever. 'I've been very fortunate that my work has kept me close to rugby,' he says, 'but even if that weren't the case, I'd do it anyway.'

## Kaplan sets the standard once more

The WPRRS and *Engage* congratulate SARU referee and WPRRS member Jonathan Kaplan, who was once again named the top official in South Africa by SARU's referee selection panel when the new panels were announced late last year.

Jonathan is the world's most capped Test referee, holding the world record for most number of matches officiated, his current tally sitting at 55 matches, with his next appearance being on the weekend when Ireland host Scotland in the Six Nations on March 20.

EVENT TYPE & TIME	DATE
Schools Day @ Newlands	March 24
BokSmart course @ 08h00 – 13h00, Newlands and HTS Bellville	March 27
Referee coaches course with Burton Hufkie @ 14h00 – 18h00, Newlands	April 14
WPRRS monthly and finance meeting @ 19h00, Newlands boardroom	April 22
WPRRS Level 1 Course @ 18h00 – 21h00, HTS Bellville	May 17 – 19
WPRRS monthly meeting @ 19h00, Newlands boardroom	May 27
Schools close	June 9
WPRRS Black Tie Dinner	June 10

Dates subject to change

## Looking to help anyway he can

Charles Wyngaard has been with the WPRRS since 1993, and through his long association with the Society, he has stayed involved with the game he loves. *Engage* spoke to Charles about his passion for rugby and his time in the Society.

Born in Cape Town on August 18 1963, Charles Wyngaard has been with the WPRRS for over 16 years, and while Charles believes his refereeing career is winding down, he wants to continue being involved. 'The referees that are joining the Society are getting ever-younger, being 18, 19 and 20 years old. As older and more experienced referees, our role is to assist them as much as we can as they progress through the system.'

Charles was first introduced to refereeing by Neville Heilbron. He has refereed in the 1st Division for many years and is currently in the 2nd Division, plus a couple of Super League games, with Charles valuing the relationships he has built over many years of blowing the whistle. It is also one of the aspects of the game he enjoys the most. 'We are social animals, and its great to be involved out on the field. You get to meet so many people and build friendships where it gets to a point where a team will know the referee and vice-a-versa, which makes things easier and more enjoyable.'

Charles received the Referee Merit Award at last year's Awards Evening for his contribution to the Society and referee development in the Langa region, where he works with Thuso Mngqibisa and Louis Mzomba. While Charles was very surprised, he appreciates being recognised. 'It was a shock to be acknowledged since I stay involved because I love the game. There are so many hard working referees



Charles having receiving last year's Referee Merit Award with then Society chairman, Dennis Immelman.

within the Society who contribute in their own way, so it's nice to be appreciated.'

He compliments the executive leadership during his time with the Society, because 'they have striven to evolve the Society into an organisation that emphasises the enjoyment and social aspect of the game as important parts of what refereeing is all about. The Society has always looked to constantly improve wherever they can, ensuring that a high standard is maintained.'

Having spent many Saturdays on rugby fields scattered across the Peninsula, Charles is extremely appreciative of the support he has received from his wife Judy, with whom he has two children, Melissa and Chad, both studying at Stellenbosch University. 'Without the support of your wife, it is impossible to be a referee because of the sacrifices it demands. I've been very blessed in that Judy loves rugby, and values and understands my commitment to the game.'



We're always looking for contributions. If you have an interesting story or picture email Cullum at [cullum@imbongisa.com](mailto:cullum@imbongisa.com) and you may get published!