

NEWS WRAP

WPRRS 2010

Events Calendar

EVENT TYPE & TIME	DATE
IRB Level One course for new refs and those still needing to do exam @ 08:00 – 16:00, HTS Bellville	28 August
WPR Ref Exec meeting	14 September
Last monthly meeting for referees @ 19:00 in the Boardroom with guest speaker, WPR Captain, Anton van Zyl	16 September
WPR Refs Exec meeting	12 October
Refs Year-end Function. Time and place TBA	22 October
Refs AGM @ 19:00 in the Boardroom	4 November

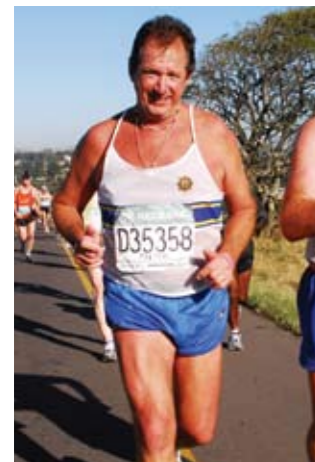
On the road again

Long-distance runners Petrus Campher and Christo Engelbrecht say that the long hours on the road pass quickly when you're in the company of like-minded comrades.



Petrus Campher, who started running in 1998, views it as a great way to live healthily. He's run plenty of races, including the Cape Town 100-miler and the Voet of Afrika, but he holds his first marathon most dear, closely followed by the double Two Oceans – that's right, he ran the same route immediately after finishing!

Christo Engelbrecht took to the road in 1993 as a way to shed some unwanted weight after he stopped playing rugby. Not long afterwards he ran his first five-kilometre race – and he hasn't looked back. He's run 18 consecutive Comrades Marathons; his goal of 20 uninterrupted isn't far off.



We challenge the WPRRS to enter a group of runners in the Two Oceans and a team of cyclists in the Argus Cycle Tour – it would be a great way to raise the profile of referees and also show the public how fit referees really are. Anyone interested should give their name to Tracey Dunbar, herself an up-and-coming runner.



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Code of Conduct rules

All referees of provincial referee societies are in turn automatically members of the South African Rugby Referees' Association and governed by that body's Code of Conduct, a copy of which has been mailed to everyone and must be completed, signed and handed back.

The Code of Conduct is of particular significance and importance to those referees who've earned their way on to any of the various Panels – Academy, Contenders, Provincial or National.

If you haven't received a copy please contact Ben Theron or Tracey Dunbar for one, or visit the referees website and complete it and return it promptly.



Three referees from London, England are with Western Province on an exchange programme for 16 days. Tata Oostenberg have been generous enough to provide them with a loan vehicle during their stay and Wimpie Annandale will be ensuring their refereeing and entertainment needs are adequately met. Special thanks to Tata Oostenberg for their assistance. Ivan Lintnaar (centre), owner of Tata Oostenberg, pictured with (from left) Ben Chappelford, Simon Bradford, Max Marsden and Wimpie Annandale.



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ENGAGE!



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the Western Province Rugby Referees' Society

5th Floor, Newlands Terraces, Newlands Cape Town • Tel: 021 659 4500 • Fax: 021 659 4501
 Email: btheron@wprugby.co.za • P O Box 66, Newlands, 7725 • www.wprugbyrefs.co.za

September 2010

Have we got the yellow card right?

By Dan de Villiers

A trend brought into sharp focus during this Tri-Nations tournament has been the increased use of the yellow card – but I'm not sure it's a good thing.

Don't get me wrong: foul or dangerous play must not be tolerated and those players intent on ruining the game as a sport must be removed from the field and dealt with through the correct channels. But I'm concerned that some referees use the yellow card to control players instead of brushing up on their people-management skills.

If we review the stats so far this year, we have had a similar number of red cards – 151 last year and 155 this year. But the use of yellow cards has exploded – 245 in the entire 2009 season and 381 this year so far, with the season not yet over. That's a 56% increase!



The fact that use of the red card is relatively static year-on-year indicates that overall discipline levels are similar. But what has changed on the yellow card front? I've asked the regional coaches to discuss this topic at the Monday evening sessions because I'm keen to understand what the reasons could be behind this dramatic shift.

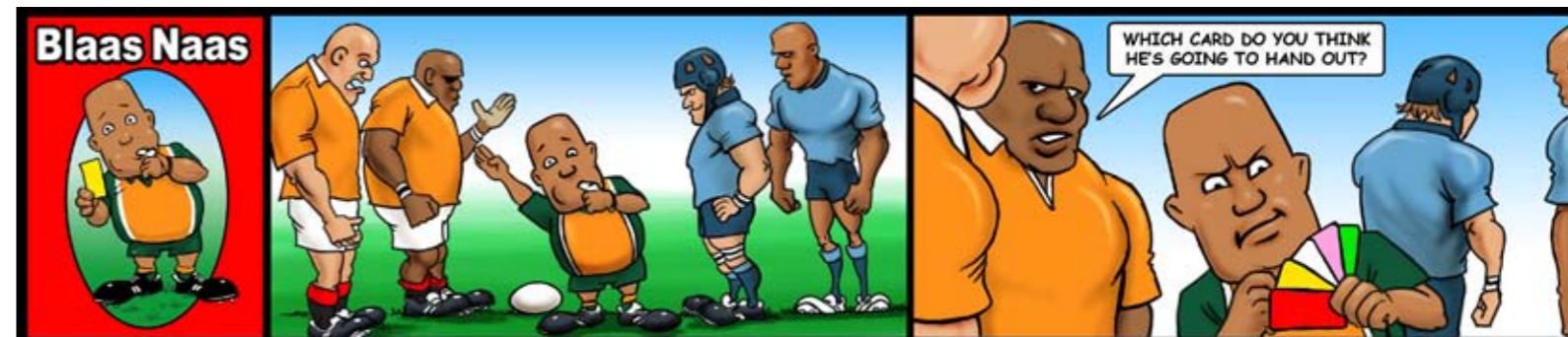
An extremely useful tool for referees is a booklet available from the IRB website (www.irb.com) called *Rugby Refereeing in Practice*. It's packed full of information going beyond what's in the Law Book and helps to make the game enjoyable for players, spectators and referees.

The booklet devotes an entire section to management and emphasises that the modern game is more about this than authoritarian control. I'd like to highlight a couple of points:

- A referee should be an adjudicator, not an enforcer
- Learn when to manage minor technical infringements by talking to the offender first
- Give brief and concise explanations
- Avoid debating decisions
- Use the captains to help manage the game
- Prevent difficult situations developing by ensuring players know they are not abiding by the Laws.

What it comes down to is communication. Within the Laws, it's our job as referees to keep everyone on the field playing within the bounds of a fair contest. The action of removing one player from the field is severe and in many instances can swing the game completely to the advantage of the non-offending team. This is fine if the sanction is warranted; let's just ensure we've done our part before the card is used.

While the bulk of the season is behind us, there are a few fixtures remaining. Thanks for your efforts again this year. We all play a valuable role in rugby in the Province.



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Rugby rules in this household

Rugby is one of those sports where the passion flows thick in certain bloodlines – but there can be few quite as interesting as the Barry family.

There are numerous South African examples where sons have followed in the footsteps of their famous rugby father, Schalk Burger being just one. Where the Barry family is concerned, father Roderick made it as a referee on the international stage, son Nathan is already an up-and-coming whistleman while his brother Craig has represented SA Schools and SA U18 at fullback for two years in a row, and mom Myrtle coaches U7 and U8s at the primary school where she teaches. Now that's rugby in the family blood!

Roderick joined the WPRRS after unification and earned his spurs as a 4B referee, but it was thanks to the help and guidance of older hands like Neville Heilbron, the late Oom Willem Brits and Flappie Kuun that he was soon making his way up the ranks. It was an invitation to blow at the 2002 Craven Week that signalled his entry to the big league.



Craig in full flight

'Be humble, remain a servant of the game and take responsibility for yourself.'

'I was fortunate enough to blow one of the two main games at the end of the week,' he recalls, 'and two weeks later I was given the U20 international between the French and Natal, and the Vodacom Cup followed the next year.'

Nathan, 19, started refereeing three years ago, helping out at Tygerberg Rugby Club with the U13, U14 and U15 sides. He was also invited to ref at Paul Roos high school in Stellenbosch, where brother Craig was already making his mark.

'I was inspired by my father to take up the whistle,' says Nathan. 'I really enjoy it in the middle, keeping the game going and feeling that I'm making an important contribution to the enjoyment of the 30 players on the park. Dealing with the criticism of the players and spectators has been the hardest part but my dad helps me keep that in perspective.'

Craig has been an outstanding player since first making it as a member of the WVP U13 Craven Week team, earning himself a scholarship to Paul Roos in the process. In his final school year he not only represented his country at age-group level but is one of three youngsters recruited to the Springbok Sevens squad.

'I really appreciate the insight that my father and brother have given me on how a referee views the game differently from a player,' explains Craig. 'I think I understand better just how hard referees work to get it right. They don't like making mistakes any more than a player likes missing a tackle or knocking the ball on.'

Myrtle has taken all this rugby machismo in her stride. Growing up in a family of three boys and with a father who played for the Tigers (the club that became Tygerberg), rugby has always been a part of her life. It was on the athletics track that she excelled, however, in the 800m.

'Referees just starting out need to keep a positive attitude because there will be low moments but you will learn as you go,' Roderick advises. 'Don't look for the rewards too early on – those games in the lower leagues are all experience- and confidence-building blocks. Be humble, remain a servant of the game and take responsibility for yourself.'

Clearly, Mom and Dad have instilled the values of hard work in their offspring and here's betting that we're going to see more of the young Barrys on the rugby fields – and probably TVs – in the near future.



Like father, like son: Roderick and Nathan

Good fun and good work at the Black Tie Dinner



This year's Black Tie Dinner featured the world's most capped Test referee, Jonathan Kaplan, as the guest speaker.

The Annual Black Tie Dinner was once again held at Kelvin Grove Club in Cape Town, on the eve of the Test between France and the Springboks at Newlands. Jonathan Kaplan, who entertained

the gathering with some of his refereeing experiences, was given a special award by WPRRS for his achievements to date and his service to the game.

Another highlight was Paul Dobson's elevation to Honorary Life Membership of the South African Referees' Association in recognition of a lifetime of service to refereeing not only in Western Province but for his work throughout the country. And although he's retired, this leading authority on rugby history still works maintaining the SA Referees website. If you want to know some obscure fact about the game we love, Paul's your man.

In what has become a most enjoyable tradition, the match officials in town for the impending Test are interviewed and this year Bryce Lawrence and team entertained the crowd.

The Dinner and raffle together raised R60 000 for referee development in the Province. Thanks to all the sponsors and participants for their valuable contribution and especially to Ben Theron and his team of Tracey Dunbar and Marianne van Wyngaard for the hard work and many hours they put in to make the event a success.

Yes, your honour

If anyone was in doubt as to the importance of completing the BokSmart training programme, recent activity in the Cape High Court should serve as an incentive to get certified.

A high-school player has taken an opposing hooker to court over alleged illegal scrumming techniques which may have contributed to a debilitating injury he suffered in a collapsed scrum in 2005.

Called in to provide expert opinion for the plaintiff was former Springbok and 2007 World Cup winning scrum coach Balie Swart. SA Rugby Referees' manager André Watson and WVP forwards coach Matthew Proudfoot are part of the defence team's arsenal.

While the case could set a legal precedent regarding the civil liability of a player's responsibility for another's injury, what it should do is highlight the referee's role in creating a safe environment for the players. As from January 2010 coaches and referees who have not been BokSmart certified will not be able to take to the field in any official capacity.

WVP has already certified over 2 000 officials. Make sure your name is on that list before the season is over.

New recruits hit the field

Fourteen recruits who took part in the first-ever schools referee training programme during the holidays have already put what they learnt into practice.

'It's great that they've taken the next step – actually officiating in a formal game environment,' says WVP referee manager Ben Theron, of the 14 learners who were involved in the Women's Day Tournament at De Kuilen School. 'The school environment is a nice training ground for young referees. There tend to be lots of opportunities for them to get practice, running touch and blowing in the junior games.'

Two two-and-a-half-day programmes were held at Jan Kriel School in Kuilsrivier and more than 140 youngsters – boys and girls – attended. They completed the IRB Level One and Assistant Referee courses and were given some practical tuition under the watchful eyes of Joey Salmans, Jason Jaftha, JC Fortuin, Wimpie Annandale, Wendy de Kock, Francois Veldsman and Wessel Pienaar.

According to SA Rugby statistics, there continues to be a dire shortage of referees in all provinces. It's through initiatives like this one, the brainchild of Ben Theron, that the imbalance can be addressed. 'We hope to see many of these youngsters coming through to the club system in a year or two,' says Ben.

