

Giddy Everyone

Great feel among Bay Refs this year. More than 50 of you attended our last Baywide meeting in April. Errol Brain had a lot to offer of his views on (coaching) lineouts. We sometimes forget the player/coach view on things. I remember some luminary said 'Where you stand depends on where you sit'. Quite appropriate I suspect. Remember it's all about the players.

John Kendal (RDC) has hit the ground running, if you'll pardon the pun. JK will contribute a regular piece to each newsletter, commencing now;

'Tena koutou Katoa/Greetings All

It has been an extremely busy start to the role as I get to know Referees, Coaches and staff members at BOP rugby. Our New Referees evening is being held Tuesday 12th May 7.00pm at BOPRU HQ at Bay Park Stadium. We have targeted 20 new referees and 5 new referee coaches. This evening is being advertised BOP wide via newspaper and radio. Please make a note in your diary and bring someone new to the evening.

NZRU Law Exams

Level 1 Exam has arrived and should be completed by mid-May. Everyone should give this a shot!

Level 2 Exam will arrive 29 July. NZRU needs completed papers back in a short time frame after this date.

Referee 'Paperwork'

Reports for ordering off (red) and temporary suspensions (yellow) need to be into BOPRU within 48 hours. You must complete these forms.

Players on their third temporary suspension for the season appear before the judicial.

If you need assistance or support with any paperwork your referee coach, RAG members and RDC are only a phone call away.

Forms can be downloaded from www.boprugby.co.nz

Referee Recruitment Posters 2009

These will be available at our next Baywide meeting on Monday 4 May. All members will be asked to get these out on display in your community. (Shop windows, work and public notice boards).

A special acknowledgement to Grant Wilson who provided the graphics and design.

June Baywide

Monday 8 June. Guest Speaker Garratt Williamson, full time professional referee. Topic Tackle/Ruck

Noho Ora Mai

Helping Referees to be Outstanding

John Kendal.

Contact 029 487 8429. email john@boprugby.co.nz

I'm always happy to receive info for our newsletter, and in this regard many thanks to Bryce Lawrence for the following contribution. Have a think about this. It's early season and you're in a position to adopt some of Bryces' points.

FIRMER, EARLIER- SETTING THE STANDARDS TO GET THE REQUIRED OUTCOMES IN A MATCH

One man's opinion by Bryce Lawrence

When we referee we have to mix TECHNICAL decision making with TACTICAL decision making based on the outcome of player's actions. Add MANAGEMENT to these two variables and we have a tough job to get the balance right and get the game we want. Do we just try too hard to be TACTICAL and MANAGE player behavior, when punitive action earlier in the game maybe the best way to set the standards we want?

This has been the question I have been asking myself in my post game analysis after my first 7 Super 14 games in 2009. I have always tried really hard to limit my PK/FK's in a match to around 20-25 (under ELV's) and have relied a lot on management, communication and tactical reading of trends to achieve this, but lately I have had a couple of pretty dour games (which had low levels of player skill for this level of fixture) and I have found myself 'owning' the players issues and actions and not being firm enough, earlier enough.

I believe I've moved too far towards managing players and need to move more towards punitive action early in the game, hence the phrase I'm taking into games – 'FIRMER – EARLIER'. By this I mean setting the standard I want at all phases of the game and ruling accurately and firmly in the first 20 minutes in order to set the parameters that players can then operate in. Robbie Deans always told me – "set the standard and good teams will adapt". By ruling FIRMER – EARLIER we give the players a clear message – this is acceptable and this isn't. They then need to change their behaviors and we as the ref don't end up owning the players issues.

A couple of examples;

1. We ask pre -game to front rows – 'don't beat the call on engagement'...if they do, right from the first hit at scrum time, FK them. If they do it again, issue another FK. Set the standard and forget managing/tactical thinking around this area.

2. We ask for a 1m gap at lineout time – the non-throwing team often closes this gap or doesn't let the gap occur. Presuming you take the same approach as me and believe players must own the gap and self manage the gap, then when they choose not to why not FK them..that will set the standard. If we don't do this EARLY then we often end up asking for a gap for 80 minutes. **IN SUMMARY, GO FIRMER – EARLIER. SET THE STANDARD...GIVE PLAYERS CONFIDENCE TO OPERATE WITHIN YOUR PARAMETERS AT ALL PHASES. DON'T OWN THEIR PROBLEMS/ACTIONS – GET PLAYERS TO CHANGE BEHAVIOURS...USE PK'S (in club rugby no FKs) TO SET GAME UP. GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR GAMES. BAY RUGBY NEEDS REFEREES!!!!**

Other Points

Nick Briant left for Japan Sunday 26 April. We'll get some notes from him on his return

Good coaches meeting Saturday 25 April. Some of you will have already been exposed to resulting reports

BOP Senior Reserve Grades are playing 'international' (not Super 14) rules.....same as Prems.

Game duration is 40 minutes each half except for grades Under 19. Colts is 40 minutes. High schools are 35. (JD you owe the writer 2 chocolate fish)

Lets have an 'all in' end of year social this year. Dave Edwards intends to take some ideas to the RAG.

RAG still wants your thoughts on 'reward and recognition' for Bay Refs. Contributions to your RAG member.

This month's joke.....Aw hell, make it two

A jumper lead walks into a bar. The barman says, "I'll serve you, but don't you start anything"

A sandwich walks into a bar. The barman says, "Sorry we don't serve food here"

BAYWIDE MEETING. This Monday 4 May at Paengaroa 7.00pm start

Unfortunately Greg Smith will be in camp with the Bay team and can't make this meeting.

Bryce L will do a session on COMMUNICATION

Contributions to greg.steele@xtra.co.nz or phone me on 0274 317 211