



ABOVE ALL FOR RUGBY LEAGUE

NSWRL Referees Association
1908 - 2008



Foreword

On behalf of the Australian Rugby League, it is a pleasure to introduce the NSW Referees Association Centenary publication.

In doing so, it comes to mind that one aspect of Rugby League which has always been a constant over the last 100 years has indeed been the referee.

For every one of those years our referees have toiled bravely alongside their playing counterparts, charged with making the sometimes unpopular decisions that make Rugby League such a fascinating spectacle.

Referees over the past 100 years have battled through different types of pressure situations, overcome a different type of fatigue, copes

with ever-increasing scrutiny, and proved that ultimately their presence, and indeed performance, is critical to Rugby League's ongoing success.

Through it all has been the underlying support of the NSW Referees Association, and its affiliate bodies, all equally as important to our sport as any player or team.

Therefore it's once again an honour to introduce herewith the NSW Referees Association's proud history.

Colin Love AM
CHAIRMAN
Australian Rugby League and
NSW Rugby League

Introduction

100 years, hundreds of referees, thousands of matches, millions of memories...

The Centenary of the NSWRL Referees Association has been a long time coming. When you survey the progress Rugby League has made in its first one hundred years and the contribution made by referees to the success of the code it all appears far removed from the obstacles that faced the Pioneers in 1908.

This publication records the major milestones of the Association and the key figures that have played their part in shaping both Rugby League and its referees.

It also examines other aspects of the Association through the individual thoughts of a range of past and present members, and I thank all those who completed submissions. I would also congratulate historian and author Terry Williams for his role in co-ordinating this project

I congratulate all members, past and present, of the NSWRL Referees Association, for their part

in the success of the last 100 years. Rugby League and the status of its officials are better as a result.

The men - and more recently women - who have served the Association and the game since its inception should be justifiably proud of the robust and vibrant collective that represents the NSWRL Referees Association in 2008. Let us all hope that continues for another 100 years and beyond.

Dennis Spagarino
CHAIRMAN NSWRLRA



The Formative Years 1907-1939

“From little things big things grow”

When Rugby League kicked off in Australia in 1907 James Giltinan was faced with the problem of recruiting an adequate number of suitable officials to assist in establishing the game. He was lucky that many union referees and former players empathised with the players' struggle to win a share of the revenue they generated and willingly crossed over to assist the new code start.

The early years were anything but smooth sailing for the referees. To begin with they had the problem of attempting to interpret rules that they had never seen. The Northern Union (now known as the RFL) had only started to make changes to the game that would make it recognisable to the modern era in 1906, including the reduction from fifteen to thirteen players.

As a result, the matches between the NSW Pioneers and Baskerville's New Zealand team in 1907 were played under rugby union rules. The first two of those games were refereed by George Boss, with George Hay as one touch judge and a member of the New Zealand team, "Massa" Johnstone, the other. Tom O'Farrell refereed the third fixture with Arthur Hennessey and Dan Gilchrist, the latter another member of the NZ side.

Tom McCabe, the Englishman who had appeared with Widnes and Wigan before emigrating in 1907, assisted in educating the players and referees on the implications of the new rules and when Baskerville's team returned after their successful tour of Great Britain they were able to further enlighten the devotees of the new code.

Ted Hooper convened the meeting on August 28, 1907, at which the NSWRL Referees Association was formed, and he was elected the first President of the Association.

A report in the Australian Star newspaper the next morning reported:

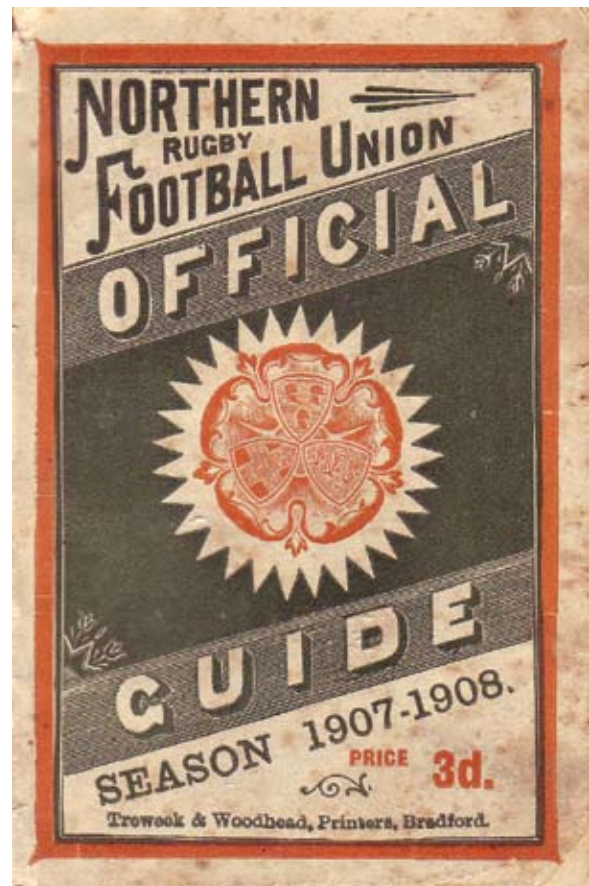
"A large and representative gathering was present, which included several prominent referees who submitted their names to the association. Mr E Hooper occupied the chair and Mr T O'Farrell (secretary pro tem) read the proposed

rules and by-laws. The rules and regulations are practically the same as those of the NSW Rugby Union, except that the League provides for higher remuneration and consistent engagements, either as referees or linesmen.

"It was decided by the Referees Association to affiliate with the NSW Rugby Football League. Messrs P.A. Stanton and T O'Farrell were elected joint treasurers. Mr O'Farrell was appointed secretary and Mr G Boss elected as the Association's representative on the League.

"The following gentlemen were elected to constitute the Referees Association and in addition will become life members of the association: PA Stanton, H Johnson, H Woodhill, H Odbert, G Hay, G Seabrook and P Rohan."

However O'Farrell (and the Association records up to that time) went to New Zealand between August 1907 and March 1908, so that, with the start of the first NSWRL season rapidly approaching, another meeting was called for Friday March 13, 1908. Thumbing their nose at Dame Fortune on a Black Friday, the NSW League Referees Association (sic) gathered together, and it is from this meeting that we trace the history of the Association.



Having referees participation enabled the NSWRL premiership to get underway on Monday April 20 1908 and the first grade referees on that historic day were:

Eastern Suburbs v Newtown – Ted Hooper

Glebe v Newcastle – Tom Costello

South Sydney v North Sydney – George Boss

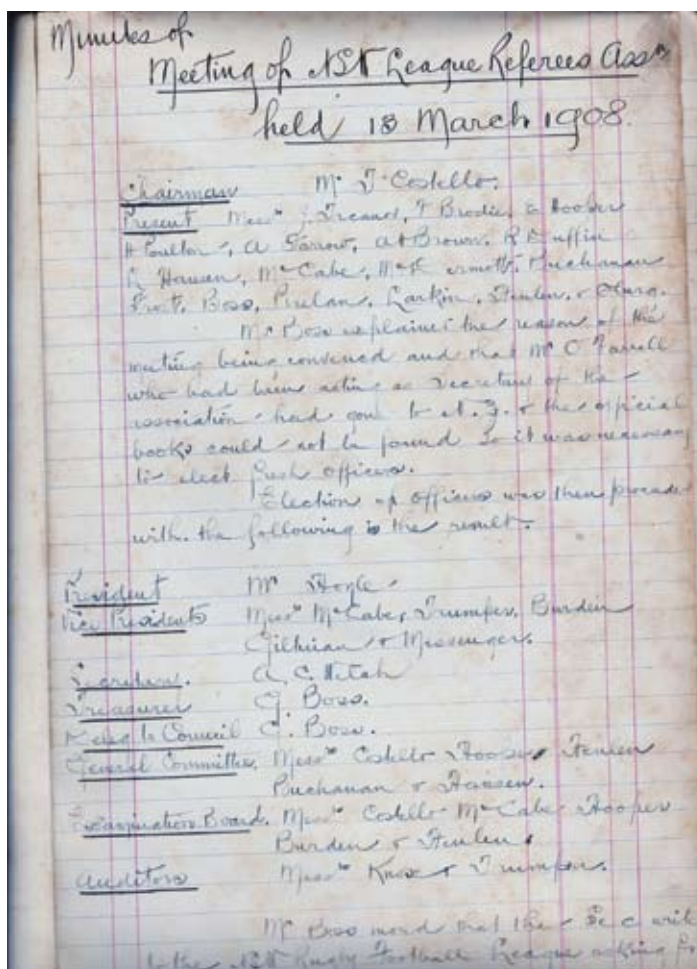
Balmain v Western Suburbs – George Seabrook

As Rugby League celebrates its centenary we owe it to them to acknowledge the part played by those pioneers of refereeing. The modern multi-million dollar business that is Rugby League has been built on great deeds by players but equally by dedicated officials who have served the NSWRLRA and the game itself.

Although there is insufficient scope here to record in detail the efforts of those who dug the well, the four initial first grade referees stand alongside Laurie Kearney, Tom McMahon, Arthur Farrow, Arthur Ballerum, Fred Henlen, Bill Finegan, William Munn, Aub Welch and Charlie Hutcheson as the most prominent names of the Association in those formative years. All of those pioneers of the Referees Association should be acknowledged and remembered for their efforts.

Some had served as rugby union referees while others were former players who wanted to show their support for the new code. Many had connections with one of the district clubs – and that sometimes caused its own problems.

Poulton, who was involved with Souths, was in trouble a couple of times. After



Minutes of Meeting of NSW League Referees Assn
Held March 13, 1908

Chairman: Mr T Costello
Present: Messrs J Treanor, F Brodie, E Hooper, H Poulton, A Farrow, AH Brown, R Duffin, L Hansen, T McCabe, Mcdermott, Buchanan, Frost, Boss, Phelan, Larkin, Henlen and Oberg.

Mr Boss explained the reason of the meeting being convened and that Mr O'Farrell who had been acting as Sec of the Association had gone to New Zealand and the official books could not be found so it was necessary to elect fresh officers.

Election of officers was then proceeded with, the following is the result:

President	Mr Hoyle
Vice Presidents	Messrs McCabe, Trumper, Burdon, Giltinan and Messenger
Secretary	AC Welch
Treasurer	G Boss
Delegate to Council	G Boss
General Committee	Messrs Costello, Hooper, Henlen, Buchanan and Hansen
Examination Board	Messrs Costello, McCabe, Hooper, Burdon and Henlen
Auditors	Messrs Knox and Trumper

Mr Boss moved that Secretary write to the NSW Rugby Football League asking for financial assistance to cover initial expenses of this Association to enable us to purchase books, blackboard, etc Seconded by Mr Treanor
Mr Frost then moved that meeting adjourn until Friday the 20th inst.

the 1910 final he was accused of trying to fire the Rabbitohs up by telling them the game had gone five minutes over time (Newtown secured the premiership with a goal in the dying moments). A couple of years later he was again censured, this time for taking refreshments on the field to a Souths Presidents Cup team during a match against North Sydney.

There were other challenges that had to be met in the game's formative years. The issue of independence raised its head on more than one occasion, and Seabrook achieved some notoriety when he sent Giltinan from the field after the game's founder had stopped a game between Australia and the Maori at Wentworth Park to remonstrate with Seabrook's rule interpretations.

Boss was another who refused to kowtow to Giltinan's demands and he resigned from the Association in June after acting as manager of the Maori visit and being caught in the middle of their imbroglio with the League.

Finance was also an issue. The NSWRL were hardly flushed with funds during that first two years but the referees still felt they were getting less than they deserved. They asked for ten shillings per first grade match but the League said they could only afford five shillings per game ie fifty cents in modern currency. The referees were certainly not in it for the money!

At least the League had honoured its commitment to provide referees with their uniform free of charge, as Victor Trumper paid for the costs of their outfits as supplied by Pearsons in the game's inaugural season.

When the NSWRL became established and grew quickly in prosperity after 1910, the referees received a belated pay rise. By 1913 the fee for first grade matches had risen to a pound per match, but no one was going to get rich on such a wage! Fortunately the adherence to the initial principle of paying referees a fee commensurate with their position is truer today than it was throughout much of the Association's history.

Initially all matches were controlled by the NSWRL, and Newcastle in 1910 was the first separate association within NSW affiliated with the head



The original Tom McMahon

body. At that stage there were no junior league associations or country associations, even though competitions were springing up everywhere. It was not until a few years after the code was established that junior league associations were formed.

The growth of the game in the years up to 1940, in spite of world wars and the Depression, was phenomenal and made Rugby League the football code of choice for the overwhelming majority of Sydney's population.

The role of referees in that development is always downplayed and seldom acknowledged but perhaps that is the greatest indication that they did their job efficiently and without fuss.

The dedication and skill they brought to their task gave scope to the players to entertain and saw Rugby League deservedly call itself "The Greatest Game of All".

Early Referees

Tom Brennan recalls early referees...

Mr Brennan, now a Vice President of the NSW Rugby Football League, established a record by holding office as association secretary for 26 years. He served a sort of apprenticeship for this as secretary of the Eastern Suburbs Referees' Association for several years. He was then also a referee of Eastern Suburbs junior matches, later a top rated senior grade referee for ten years before becoming NSWRA secretary in 1937.

He has seen the parade of all the great referees, watched the pioneers establish and their successors maintain the high standards of efficiency and personal conduct that have won Australian referees international renown as the world's best.

He gives much of the credit for this to the very early referees – men like George Boss, Charlie Hedley and Joe Black. As members of the original Referees Examination Board, these three, all top referees of their day, submitted candidates to deep-probing tests that generally



left the dazed aspirant with a fellow feeling for the wretches who confronted the Spanish Inquisitors. But Boss, Hedley and Black based their examinations on their own excellence as referees and the knowledge that familiarity with the rules was not enough, that a man needed special qualities to apply them with complete control.

This has remained the guiding principle of Referee Examination Boards.

Webby Neill, former Newtown player and Kangaroo tourist, had a spectacular rise to Test refereeing after quitting playing. Tom Brennan regards him as the greatest exponent of the advantage rule he has seen. "Webby sure kept a game moving along," he says. "He didn't let anyone get away with anything but neither did he blow his whistle for every little breach – he just waited to see what developed from it. This kind of refereeing helps a lot to give the public good, fast football and keeps the players on their toes."

Webby Neill is one of many celebrated players who became top class referees. Among them was Joe Murphy, known as "The Mighty Atom" (he weighed only about 8 stone). Murphy played fullback for Glebe. He was a playing contemporary of the old club's famed Burge brothers. Joe is now bowls coach at Clovelly club. George Bishop, Test player, became a great Test referee and Australian selector..

"Play-the-ball" Mick Branighan, a forebear of the brothers now playing with South Sydney, was a player of some note before taking up the whistle. He was known as "Play-the-ball" Mick because of his insistence on the ball being played exactly as the rule stipulated, though he was more tolerant in other phases of play. Frank Hyde...George Clamback..Jack Lynch.. the names of well-remembered players who became referees is almost inexhaustible.

As a cricket umpire, Giltinan had a fellow feeling for referees. A Rugby League referee of later date, Cyril Wigzell, was also an interstate umpire. Eric Cox recalls: "While umpiring one match Cyril no-balled Ray Lindwall eight times in one over. He has often said that he no-balled himself out of cricket in that match."

Mr Wigzell, director of the NSWRL's coaching class for referees and a life member of the Association, is one of a group of eminent adjudicators renowned for the help they have given to younger and less experienced colleagues. One of the first of these was J

“Dinny” Murray, whose portrait hangs in the hall of fame at Balmain Leagues Club.

Mr Cox said, “Dinny is popularly known as the daddy of referees. He was active in the 1920s and early 30s. A wonderful lecturer, he was father confessor and adviser to generations of young referees.”

Tom Brennan says Murray was popularly known among his confreres as “Cool, Calm and Collected.” This derived from an analogy he was fond of using in lecturing aspiring referees. “In advising the class how to retain control of a situation that looked like getting out of hand he’d say, “Now if you were on a ship that was hit by a torpedo amidships as it was passing Pinchgut you’d need to stay cool, calm and collected – otherwise you’d go down with the ship,” Mr Brennan remembers. Dinny Murray was a patron of the Association and a member of the Examination Board for many years.

Mr Brennan considers Lal Deane as the greatest referee he has seen. As an occasional touch judge for Deane, a Test referee of the 1930s, he had ample opportunity to form this judgement from seeing him in action at close quarters.

“Not only did he have an absolute knowledge of the rules but he applied them consistently, very quietly and without any histrionics,” he says. “He disliked stopping play to wag a finger at some player committing an illegality but would run beside him, after awarding the appropriate penalty, and quietly warn the offender not to do that again. Very few did.”

Deane coached several young referees who later reached the top ranks. Among them was Darcy Lawler, who used Deane’s whistle to referee his first Test match. Lawler went on to officiate in a record 17 Test matches.

The example of Dinny Murray and Lal Deane in fostering young referees was followed by Joe McGauley and others after World War II.

From Rugby League World, March 1969



MR. H. A. ROWLAND,
Vice-President; member of Judiciary Committee and Referees' Appt. Board.



Khaki Referees

Like the rest of Australia, the Referees Association was deeply affected by the First World War. Amongst those who served were referees EA Shaw, Carroll, Dunlop, T Norman, H Elliott, and NSWRL Secretary Ted Larkin (also a member of the Association).

The Association's minute books reveal the support they gave to the war effort while also chronicling the impact of the war on the game. The Association lent their support to members who enlisted allowing them to continue as honorary members while on service, and donated their fees from some matches to patriotic causes. In 1915 they gave their expenses from the first round of competition matches to the Belgian Fund, while in 1916 fees from the first round were again given to patriotic funds.

HJ Elliott was one of the League's first referees. Born at Ballina in 1885 his service record reveals that he was a mechanical engineer living at Burton St Darlinghurst when he enlisted in August 1915.

Elliott's talents soon won him promotion to Lance Corporal, thence to Sergeant before he arrived in France in April 1916. In October that year he won the Military Medal for "conspicuous bravery in the field". His citation reads:

"At Poziers, France from 15th to 22nd August 1916 Sergt Elliott was engaged for six consecutive nights on the constructive work in the 1st and 3rd brigade fronts near the quarry and Mouquet Farm. He was remarkably cool under heavy shelling and his example and encouragement to the men in his parties contributed in a great degree to the successful work of construction."

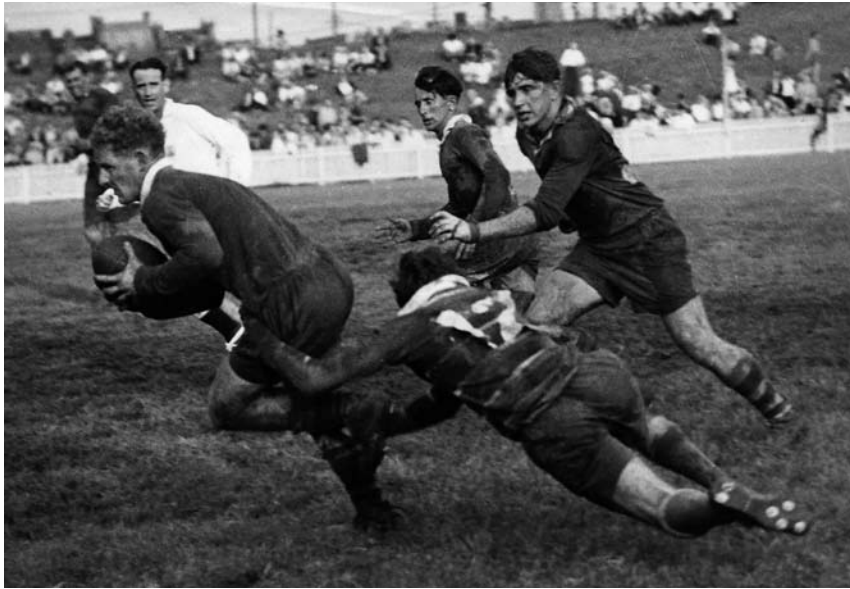
"During the whole period he was engaged on this work he only had one night off duty. On the 22nd August he suffered from the concussion of a bursting shell but refused to leave his station."

He spent most of the next eighteen months with the Australian command in England before he returned home in 1918. A chronic back injury made him an invalid in 1918 and



1912 NSWRLRA team to play Newcastle Referees

"Back Row: R Goodwin, LM Finnegan, W Tanner, J Black, H Millington Middle Row: H Alcorn, H Elliott, WP Finnegan, E Shaw, T McIntosh, H Carruthers, A Norton Front Row: H. Woodhill, AS Hennessy, C Bond, F Norman"



Cliff Brown keeps pace with Chick Cowie during a game between Souths and Easts at Redfern Oval in the early 1950s

ended his days as an active member of the Association, although he remained involved and is recorded as being in attendance at both meetings and functions.

After his discharge Elliott moved to the Blue Mountains and ran a guest house at Katoomba for many years.

The Second World War again saw the members of the Association do their bit to contribute to the overall war effort.

The Minutes and Annual Reports of the Association during the period record the many fundraisers and regular correspondence exchanged with members who were serving in the various arms of the defence force.

Seventeen members enlisted during the years from 1939 – 45 and served in a variety of capacities across all arms of the forces. The roll of honour for WWII is:

D Bratton, A Spankie, L Baggott, M Perry, N Cooper, R Musgrave, A Neary, F Ogden, E Goss, V Harrison, J Kelly, W Cuke, A Watson, R Ward, A Davis, O Cohen and A Knight.

One of them, Eddy Goss, made the ultimate sacrifice and was killed during the Japanese push into the south Pacific. Born at Millers Point and residing at Glebe when he enlisted, Goss perished in the Battle of Muar, Malaya.

This was some of the fiercest fighting seen in the war and saw Australian troops fighting a rearguard action in a vain attempt to stave off

the Japanese assault on Malaya and Singapore. Goss's 2/19th Battalion caught up in the thick of it. He is buried at Kranji War Cemetery.



Les Williams keeps a watchful eye on play during a game between Newtown and Norths in the late 1940s

It is important not to underestimate the effects of the two World Wars on the Association, seen within context of the overall impact on Australian society and Rugby League in particular.

The tightening of belts at home, the impost of finding extra funds to exhibit their support for the war effort and individuals involved, the interruption of careers and loss of prospective members, friends and relatives ensured that, like every other part of Australian society, the NSWRL Referees Association was scarred forever by the global conflicts.

Middle Years 1940 - 1975

“The Times They Are A Changing”

Having survived assorted trials and tribulations during the first 30 years of the Association, the middle years of the twentieth century saw the rise of a new era for referees.

There were many rule changes over this period, none more significant than the introduction of limited tackle era in 1967, as well as changes to competition with the addition of Parramatta and Manly in 1947, the establishment of the Second Division (1963), the elevation of Penrith and Cronulla in 1967 and the commencement of the midweek Amco Cup in 1974.

Sectarianism, the rise of professionalism after the Second World War, the introduction of television, the growth of leagues clubs, changes to the rules and introduction of sponsorship which made the sport more and more business-like were all features of the three decades after the war and each presented its own difficulties.

All of these had their own impact on the Association and its members, but though they were not the architects of the changes the referees, as always, had to deal with their implications.

Certainly there was no dilution in the quality of officials who graced this era, something reinforced by any cursory review of some of the names of prominent officials during that period.

“Long Tom” McMahon, another who would be a contender for the title of “Best Referee of All Time”, continued up until 1951 and controlled Test matches in his final season. George Bishop, who played Test football and later reached the same standard as a referee, hung up the whistle a year later while Jack O’Brien, who refereed the 1942 Grand Final after only being graded that year, was another who loomed large in those years during and immediately after WWII.

Darcy Lawler, Col Pearce, Laurie Bruyeres, Les Williams, Arthur Neville, Jack Bradley, who in 1962 emulated the achievement of Jack O’Brien in controlling the first grade grand final in his initial season as a graded referee, Keith Parkinson, Ray O’Donnell, Les Samuelson, Fred Erickson, Don



Tom McMahon and the players pursue a kick upfield during an interstate game from 1939

Lancashire, who subsequently moved to Qld, Jack Harris, Billy Kelly, Keith Page, Keith Holman, Don McDonald, Jack Farrelly and Jack Harris all stood out as referees during this period.

Amongst those who were most prominent as touch judges were the likes of Ern Tinsley, George Kellahan, J Tubridy, Brian Barry, Dick Cummins, Bert Cowley, Terry Leffler, Reg Dick, John Montgomery, Jack Martin, Joe Griffiths, Max Tomsett, Ted Pepper and Barry Cross to mention just a few.

Within the Association names such as Jim Griffin, Cyril Wigzell, Arthur Davis and Austin Shiner served as President, Tom Brennan and Eric Cox each had lengthy stints as secretary while Horrie Millington and Os Cohen both gave extended and invaluable service as Treasurer.



Laurie Bruyeres awards a penalty against Parramatta at Cumberland Oval in 1970

Jack Moroney

The link between Rugby League and cricket has always been strong and there have been many referees who have also been prominent in the cricket world.

Arthur Farrow and Cyril Wigzell both umpired at first class level while others such as Col Pearce, who played first grade cricket for Marrickville, were more than handy as players.

Jack Moroney was graded as a referee in 1948 from the Eastern Suburbs Association and served as a lower grade touch judge over the next two seasons.

By that time he was already a member of the NSW Sheffield Shield side, having made his debut in 1945-46. In 1949 his refereeing career was brought to an abrupt end when he was selected to tour South Africa under Lindsay Hassett.

*Moroney scored over 1500 runs on the tour and made his Test debut, appearing in all five Tests. His personal highlight came with centuries in both innings (118 and 101 *) of the Fourth Test at Johannesburg.*

However he made a pair in the First Test of 1950-51 series against England and was dropped from the team and only played one further Test, against the West Indies in 1951-52. In all first class games he scored over 4,000 runs at an average of 52.24 with twelve centuries.



*Tom McMahon receives report from his touch judge during the Second Test between Australia and France in 1951.
An attentive audience awaits the outcome.*

Camaraderie

From its very inception the Referees Association has enjoyed a rich social life that has helped form a special camaraderie between its members. For the 1911 picnic the General Committee requested the secretary purchase 27 gallons of beer, six bottles of whisky, a five gallon keg of ginger beer, four dozen bottles of lemonade and two of soda water. One also hopes they had a supply of the 1911 equivalent of Berocca close by the next morning!

As all members had fulltime jobs, weekly meetings were held to discuss appointments, general business and rule interpretations. It made for a hectic schedule when members had to travel to and from meetings by public transport and meetings often went past the recommended 10.30pm.

Such commitment could only be sustained by men passionate and dedicated enough to continue working for the betterment of the game, and helped forge the special bonds that has characterised the Association since its inception.

Early socials included matches against the Newcastle referees and the League (one can imagine that this would have been potentially the most challenging fixture on the calendar given the enmity that often existed between the two bodies!) as well as cricket matches, picnics, smoko concerts and just impromptu socials after matches or meetings.

The comments regarding the kinship within the ranks reveal the fraternal nature of the Association, and while the overwhelming majority of members share that bond it must also be acknowledged that, whether by personality or the competitive nature of the profession, there are others for whom that is not always the case.



Happy bowlers at the 1989 Bowls Day
(l to r): Jack Hampstead, Ray Wilson, Jack Gaynor,
Jack Winchester and Cliff Brown.

"Our camaraderie needs to be at the highest always as we regard ourselves as the 17th club – this is always strong as we can not be drawn into outside influences and we only have our core group to go to when there are issues that we can not control. We remain strong in our mind, the mental toughness that associates this job is evident during these times."

"Let's face it, no one likes us, we are hated. Referees are a family, we have a tight bond, we all have the one thing in common - we love the game. I believe if we all stick together and look out for ourselves nothing can tear us apart. It's a tough gig out there, people screaming at us and wanting to hang us after 80 minutes, but the 3 of us on game day go out there for two reasons: the players and the game."

"The camaraderie is very strong between referees. Referees have to endure comments from senior officials such as "It would be a great game if it was not for referees". There are no friends between officials and referees. There might be niceties but one has one job and the other has another. I would compare it to the bond and friendships that can be formed between winning grand final teams."

"I still meet referees I have known for 50 years"

"Referees are similar to police officers in that they are a tight knit group who really look after each other, it takes courage to do the job and you need a strong character."

"In my days, we drank all the beer in the room then back to the pub or club. Christmas picnics, weekends away and other outing were good for families to get together."

"Refereeing has brought enormous lifelong friendships for both me and my wife"

"I admire any person who gains their ticket and gets the whistle out."

"I have always expressed the opinion that the NSWRLRA is one of the finest groups of people with whom I have been associated."

"When I first started there was a good bond that existed between referees. I believe that it waned a bit during the 1990s and early years of the present century when one or two people had the attitude of "stuff everybody else – I'm here to dominate you all". In recent years the bonds have strengthened again whilst the competitive edge among the group remains."



NSWRLRA team examine the winners cheque for 500 pounds from the Telegraph Sports Parade's quiz conducted on radio in 1948.

The team was (l to r); Tom Bellew, Bernie Clune, Ray O'Donnell, Cliff Brown and manager Joe Moses

"Referees and umpires across all sports tend to develop a bit of an affinity out of the unique circumstances surrounding what we do. The mates that I have made out of refereeing will be the mates that stay with me for life. There is a shared ability to manage adversity, an understanding of the responsibility to the sport that goes with refereeing, and the empathy that comes with understanding that a mistake made by someone else could just as easily be made by you. There is also the ability to obtain self satisfaction and peer recognition in a role where the general public will rarely appreciate your performance."

"The friendship between referees is a special bond, training regimes in today's game means you spend most of your spare time with these people pushing yourselves to the limit every session and the mentality of the group is that we push each other to be the best we can be. When you achieve these goals together - that creates a great bond and camaraderie. It's not only the training that creates this bond, one of my favourite past times with this group is training Saturday mornings at the beach. We will either run along the beach or do the sandhills at 6am in the morning so we are the first over the hills and then after we are finished go for a swim and have breakfast together. There is nothing better after a tough session than floating in the surf with the sun on your face and then going for a feed with your mates."

History of N.S.W.R.L. Referees Associations Appreciation Day

In the mid 1980's there were over 150 living honorary or life members of the Association many of whom were sixty or more years of age. Most social functions (life membership presentation, Life Members Reunion, General Meetings etc) were held at night. Travelling at night, particularly from afar (e.g. Wollongong, Penrith etc) was extremely difficult for many.

Consequently the Committee decided to cater for this group per medium of an Appreciation Day restricted to life and honorary members aged sixty years and over.

Initially the day chosen was the first semi-final for the season. Members in attendance dined in the restaurant at the Sydney Football Stadium, had a group photo taken and were presented with an Association polo shirt. At the conclusion of the luncheon each person

present moved to a free reserved grandstand seat provided without charge by the NSWRL and later by the NRL.

With the closing of the SFS dining room in the 1990's the luncheon venue became the NSWRL Leagues Club. At the conclusion of which members travelled to the SFS to view the semi-final.

The travel component (organising lifts etc) of this was a difficulty. To resolve this problem the present day format was introduced. These days the luncheon is held at the NSWRL Leagues Club at semi-final time. Members attending receive an Association polo shirt, participate in a group photo and view the semi final on a large screen.

Ian McCall

Bowls Day

The Referees started playing bowls in the middle of the 1950s under the efforts of Jack Davies, Alex Spankie and a handful of other enthusiasts. We played on Sunday afternoons at Tempe Leagues Bowling Club, where some of the referees were members, and also at Asquith Bowling Club. Today, three members from that original group are still involved – Brian Barry, Albert Perry and Arthur Konnecke. With the introduction of Sunday grade football and the establishment of the Second Division in the 1960s, the members were committed both days, leaving very little time for bowls.

In the late 1970s Cliff Brown, through a lot of time and hard work, started the Bowls Days up again. With the help of other referees things were running into shape and we were lucky to have such great support from Leichhardt Bowling Club of which Cliff was a member and later President.

Cliff contacted Gerry Lane, a Newcastle Referee and a good friend to a lot of Sydney Referees, organised games between each other and to this day they still meet annually, with each Bowls Day getting bigger and better.

“We invited players to join us and there were some famous old names amongst them such as Tommy Bourke, Jack Hampstead, Chick Cowie, Bernie Purcell, Ernie Hammerton, Wally and Ron O’Connell and Clem Kennedy just to mention a few”.

We must not forget the members who were of great assistance to Cliff over many years – Ray O’Donnell, Albert Perry, Bill Pearson and Les McReynolds. Their work was invaluable to the future of the Bowling fraternity within the Referees ranks.

“Today we have grown in numbers, especially from the Association members, and it is like a reunion each time we play. The support we receive from the Association is a big plus for our bowlers and we certainly appreciate it.

We play for two trophies each year – firstly against Leichhardt Bowling Club for “The



Many former players such as internationals Chick Cowie, Wally O’Connell, Jack Rayner and Duncan Hall have enjoyed the friendship at our Bowls Days

Might and Power Trophy” which was donated by former member Nick Moraitis and named after his famous horse. From 2008 the annual trophy we contest with the Newcastle Referees will be known as “The Cliff Brown & Gerry Lane Perpetual Trophy”.

We have new leadership in Ian McCall, supported by a strong team of workers who continue to make our Bowls Days so successful.

We must not forget the ladies of Leichhardt Bowling Club who for many years have also been a big part of our success. The late Pat Hampstead was at the forefront of their efforts for a long time and her work has been carried on by Pat Kane and her wonderful assistants. None of this could have been achieved without the tremendous support from the management and Board of the Leichhardt Bowling Club over the years. Words alone cannot do justice to the appreciation felt by all our bowlers towards Leichhardt Bowling Club – but they always make us feel like it is home.

Our aim is “To keep the Referees together”. The camaraderie engendered by our gatherings has been a major highlight of the Referees social calendar each year and we intend to continue the enjoyment for many years to come.

Problems and Conflicts

The commitment of those early referees and officials of the Association helped make the growth of rugby league possible, but as always the thanks they received was minimal. The constant battles with the League authorities over money, independence and the many other issues do not always put the League's officials in a good light, and the public were as fickle then as now – and more ready to show their displeasure when rulings went against their teams.

Balmain and Glebe supporters at Birchgrove and Wentworth Parks respectively had well deserved reputations for showering referees and opposition teams with blue metal or other available stones when things didn't favour their local heroes. Police were sometime used to escort referees out of the grounds and suburb – especially if the home team was beaten!

“Referees and umpires as a rule have no feelings towards players, but Arthur Farrow, who has handled international Rugby League and Sheffield Shield cricket, says there are exceptions”.

He recalls the time when he prayed a goal-kicker would fail. The kicker was Roy Horder, playing for South Sydney against Balmain in a City Cup semi final at Birchgrove.

It was around 1914, when visiting teams received a hot reception at most grounds. The referee would not win a popular man contest, either, if the result went the wrong way.

This day “Chook” Fraser was knocked out and carried off with five minutes to play and Balmain leading 10-7. Then Arthur McCabe found an opening in the weakened defence to score in the corner.

“I prayed for Horder to miss the goal,” Farrow recalled yesterday, “but no such luck.”

“A minute from time the ball went right through the posts and Balmain were beaten.

Friday League special— THE GRAND FINAL

LAWLER ILL—BRADLEY REFEREE

By W. F. CORBETT

Darcy Lawler is ill and will not referee the Rugby League grand-final tomorrow between St. George and Western Suburbs at the S.C.G.

Jack Bradley has been appointed to referee the first grade grand final, Arthur Neville reserve grade and Laurie Bruyeres third grade.

THE TEAMS

WESTIN: Ken Reed, Dave Barclay, Fred Norton, G.H. McDougall, Poley Diamond, Arthur Swannons, Don Malone, Kevin Smyth, Kel O'Brien (capt), ne Gary Russell, Jim Cody, John Hayes, Noel Kelly, Thomas Mennery.

ST. GEORGE: Kevin McDonald, Ed. Lonsdon, Reg Gauder, Johnny Rhee, Johnny King, Johnny Raper, George Evans, Elton Macnamara, Kevin Ryan, Nuala Perrow (capt), Bill Wilson, Ian Walsh, Mandy Punter.

Norm Provan farew

Continued from Back Page

But for Noel Hollingdale, I would never have had the nerve to present myself for a job with a grade club.

I am happy to say that in my 13 years with Union I have never had a row with a player or an official.

The types I have met through the club are the best anyone could hope to meet.

Whenever I conjure up my memories of a game, it is the players and the referee who are the main focus.



Mick Stone sends off Phil Sigsworth in the 1986 Grand Final



*Jason Robinson heads up the tunnel
after a match at the SFS*

"I knew how it would be as we left the field and though the players protected me, I received one bad kick on the leg. Four detectives escorted me from the ground. And all that for ten shillings a match, which was the fee for referees in those days."

*Undated newspaper clipping. Story by E Christensen
in "The Sun" newspaper c 1951*

The Association's minute books also reveal instances when referees had their clothes stolen during matches but not all the problems throughout the history of the Association have been so light hearted. There have been serious rifts within the ranks at various times over a number of issues that threatened to tear the fabric of the Association.

The sectarianism of the 1940s and 50s created divisions, with both the Masons and Catholics holding sway at different times. The mid-1970s saw more turmoil over appointments, performances and perceived favouritism while the Super League war of the mid 1990s created a schism which is only now beginning to fade in the Association's collective consciousness.

Grand Finals have also provided their own difficulties, most notably the 1952 Grand Final between Souths and Wests, which was

won by the Magpies under the coaching of former referee Tom McMahon. The match was the last controlled by George Bishop and drew much comment in the Press, with veiled suggestions that the result had been pre-determined by betting interests.

Respected league historian Ian Heads identified that match (along with the 1963 decider and Grand Finals from the mid 1970s) as being the subject of much conjecture regarding the legitimacy of the result, and contemporary reports certainly indicate there was more than one contentious and perhaps dubious decision in this match. Whether it was simply a poor day at the office or something more sinister, this stands as an example of errors in judgement influencing the outcome of an important game.



*Steve Lyons explains a decision to a
disbelieving group of Warriors players*

Those dark times are just as much part of the rich history of referees as the moments of sweetness and light, but through each crisis the Association has endured, carried forward by the collective commitment of the members and their dedication to duty.

Best Thing About Being a Referee

Outsiders might not appreciate that there are actually some positives to being a referee, but those involved know different!

“In my era of refereeing the best things about being involved were the camaraderie/ bond developed between referees, Social events and the game - refereeing being a sport not a business.”

“Being part of the game, keeping fit, and at First Grade level, the buzz of the atmosphere.”

“The best thing about being a referee is the motivation it provides to maintain a high level of physical fitness, the involvement in the game of Rugby League and the physical and mental challenges this presents, the camaraderie and friendship enjoyed with fellow referees and the level of respect attributed to the position by most players and large sections of the community.”

“Being part of a great game and the satisfaction of having a very good performance, assisted by two very good touch judges.”

“Close to the action in the best game in the world refereeing the best competition in the world / the bunch of blokes you get to work with day after day to try to get the 'perfect' game.”

“Despite the criticism, it is tremendously satisfying and rewarding. It gave me an opportunity to be involved in Rugby League at the highest level.”

“Best thing about being a referee is having fun, the opportunity to watch great players in elite levels and park footy play the game, meeting new friends. Being fit is also an added extra. The passion for the game to go on the field every weekend for 9 months it's a satisfaction not everyone can have.”



English referee Russell Smith made his mark after emigrating Down Under and is now mentoring young officials.

“For me the enjoyment I had in being a part of a game along side some great players and seeing them do some fantastic things on the field is something I treasure. Certainly the best seat in the house.”

“There are so many good things about being a referee: the satisfaction at contributing to a great game of Rugby League, the friendship of other referees, the contacts made with people from all walks of life and the way it gives you confidence to handle difficult life situations.”



Impact of technology

While the rules have changed over time, the application of the rules and the rise of technology have also had an enormous impact on the way referees and touch judges go about their work.

Prior to the introduction of television to Australia former international Ray Norman had produced a series of films for use in coaching youngsters and these represented the first steps in this field.

It wasn't until 1976 that the video was first used to cite a player at the judiciary (after the Newtown v North Sydney Amco Cup match) and the introduction of the VCR made the technology readily available to a wider audience for coaching purposes.

The use of the video referee and communication equipment for touch judges and referees have changed the roles and responsibilities of the modern officials, whilst also presenting its own challenges.

"See great advantages in the introduction of on-field communication, the use of audio-visual technology to develop and improve the standard of refereeing and the application of Science to the training and mentoring of referees."

".. in my days, before we had communication gear, you really had to work hard as a team."



"Technology has altered the teamwork facet of refereeing. Certainly in my time there was an emphasis on the three officials watching a different aspect of play simultaneously and, as a touch judge, this varied according to where, on the field, play was situated."

"Positives outweigh the negatives. In some ways, technology has removed the need for some technical refereeing skills. However, the ability to communicate effectively between members of the officiating team has allowed for improved decision making, and particularly at grade level, better interaction and assistance from touch judges. Also, when electronic communications first came into grade football, it was difficult to foresee that this would transcend into junior leagues. However, just about all junior leagues now function with electronic communication systems"

"With the way that the game has developed, teamwork has become very important. The communication equipment helps with this enormously. T/J's have far more responsibilities these days, and working together is important to get the job done. We believe that we are only as strong as our weakest link, so everybody needs to do their job and help out."

"The impact of technology on Refereeing has been enormous over the years that I have been involved. In many respects I believe it has made the job easier, but at the same time it has placed more pressure and expectation of faultless performances of referees."

"We will never ever get 100% perfection, but we will get very close as time goes on, with improved training, skills development and better utilisation of technology."

"In 1994 Michael Stone was responsible in introducing the first piece of technology to on field refereeing, and, that was microphones placed in the flag sticks carried by the touch judges. This allowed T/J's to communicate short messages to referees and was a major assistance to referees. Once super league started they introduced via the large amount of money that battle brought introduced two-way communication between T/J, referees and video"

referees. This has had a major impact on the way a referee controls and handles a game. I suggest it has certainly assisted the referees because of the amount of scrutiny is applied to a game. A referee would not survive if he did not have this assistance. The video referee has also assisted the referee. The only negative is the method and protocol that is sometimes used in assisting the referee. It has at times become obtrusive to a point where we have video referees making judgments for the referee from the stand”.

“Must move with the times. If technology is available it should be used”

“Technology has added both positive and negative aspects to the game, the good points now are improved communication between the referee and touch judges so a referee has the opportunity of knowing what his touch judges thoughts are on a decision before he makes it, and also the ability for encouragement between the officials during a game. It also brings the opportunity to review your games and improve in areas needed to for better results. Also technology adds to better training practices, diets and injury recovery. But with more advanced technology comes greater scrutiny of referees performances, added

pressure to get decisions correct, this takes away confidence in a lot of cases whereas in the past if a referee made a decision - right or wrong - his decision was accepted and the game went on, and hence there was a lot less pressure outside the game area.”

“Technology has increased match official scrutiny to incredible levels – public perception after 4 or 5 replays on whether the referee got the decision wrong whereas the referee has one angle and needs to make a decision on the spot. This therefore leads to unwarranted criticism and perhaps would affect younger people wanting to become referees as all they read about is criticism.”

Likewise, the introduction and use of the video referee, is generally seen as a step forward, although it too has created its own difficulties.

“Makes referees lazy but certainly get more decisions right.”

“Beneficial in a number of ways but has done away with the individual flair of the referee..”

“Good if used effectively..”



Referee Steve Clark and Steve Lyons wire up before taking the field

"A lot of arguments over tries and foul play have been eliminated."

"Introduction of the Video ref, I feel, has taken away from the game. It should be used either for all tries or none as I believe there is an issue with consistency."

"Concerned with the use of the video referee in that it attempts to remove the traditions and unpredictability of the game that sometimes arose from human error and the quality of the referee in charge. It seems that there is an attempt today to produce robots and strive for perfection despite the errors in judgement being made despite the use of the video referee"

"Creates problems in the junior leagues with refereeing styles.."

"Some people think it takes human error out of the game, and to some extent it might. Rather be right than reading about it in Monday's paper."

Perhaps the final word on the subject should be:

"Like all technology (at footy or elsewhere) – it's great when it's working, but we must never forget the basics and be able to cope without it."



Teamwork

"This is the most important aspect of our game day – we are judged as a team so teamwork is paramount – we have a set 'vocab' that makes a long sentence into a single word that relates to a issue during the game – this is used constantly as a team to get the decision right and keeps the game flowing – we are a team of four including the video ref - our preparation is important in knowing the people around you as different people require different things – this is all discussed prior to the match so when we cross the white line we are as prepared as we can be for the next 80 minutes – and when we come off we have nothing left in the tank – mentally and physically."

"You must work together "all for one and one for all!", can't do it on your own if you want to get it as correct as possible and be there in the same grade the following week. You learn each person's preferences and how they like to do things and mesh together accordingly to achieve the goals we set."

"There is very much a philosophy that the 3 or 4 officials are in it together when you go out to do a game. Like in a team sport, one good performer can make the team performance good, and similar for a poor performance. As you run with certain individuals, you better develop teamwork as you adjust to individual nuances. A good team performance tends to give you satisfaction of a job well done, whereas there is often a feeling of disappointment even if you have performed well individually, but the team has made a major error. From a technical side, the introduction of the communications technology has changed the way that the team works together, and has made refereeing more of a team sport than previously. There is certainly more responsibility on touch judges as roles have changed in recent years."

"In my era communication between the referee and Touch Judge was via a quick glance to a/or both Touch Judges for a signal or an action. The signal or action depended upon the experience of the Touch Judge and the understanding (reading of play) developed between those involved. When giving a report, a Tough Judges never left any doubt on the course of action that the Referee should undertake. There is no "i" in team. The only thing that works is TEAMWORK!"

"It is a must that referees and touch judges work together. They are the ones who must control games, not the media or any outside influences."

"There were some referees with whom it was a delight to work but there were others who had little time for Touch Judges and the assistance and support they could provide. The best referees consulted Touch Judges before the game, spoke to them at times during the game and especially at half-time and who sometimes called for assistance. They always thanked the Touchies after the game for their input."

"Teamwork between on field officials has improved greatly since the introduction of the latest on field communication gear. Back say 15 years ago it was more referee had a job to do and the T/J had a job to do. In other words - all to themselves. This was unless you had a close friendship that had



Russell Turner spots an infringement

developed between a T/J and referee (eg M Stone and M Ryan or D Spagarino and M Ryan etc.). The best friendships between T/J and referees always developed with the after-game drinks we used to have at a club. The breathalyser ruined that!"

"With the way that the game has developed, teamwork has become very important. The communication equipment helps with this enormously. TJ's have far more responsibilities these days, and working together is important to get the job done. We believe that we are only as strong as our weakest link, so everybody needs to do their job and help out."

"Teamwork is most important. If you do not work together, you're gone."

"With most of the touchies I worked with the teamwork was exceptional, although I did get into trouble when one refused to admit to an error and I got dropped as a result!"

"Walk on together, come off together, praise each other, be constructive of each other not destructive, for those that you pass on the way up the ladder you may well pass on the way down."



Shaun Hampstead speaks to Canberra's Simon Woolford



Half time review for referee Grahame West and his touch judges Peter Digby and Barry Ruttle at a Newcastle match at the turn of the century.

Recruitment, Coaching, Development

"To be informed by an Advisory Board Member after a game that there was an incident or a ruling that was missed or incorrect always produced a sinking feeling. Not only was I disappointed that I got it wrong but, in my time, future appointments were largely error based, a very negative way of coaching and mentoring in my opinion. When coaches and players congratulated me on a performance and I satisfied those who were assessing my performance I felt a great deal of satisfaction and looked forward to my next appointment."

"Job satisfaction came with the good report you may have received after a game. For me it was the enjoyment I had in being a part of a game along side some great players and seeing them do some fantastic things on the field. Certainly the best seat in the house."

"Away from football I have worked in some high level / high responsibility positions, including management of staff. Many of my coping strategies and people management skills have been learned through dealing with footballers in difficult emotionally-charged situations. In addition to this type of life-skill development, there is also the learning that comes with experience in refereeing – the ability to manage certain situations on the field comes from having the right tools in the kit bag, developed through time and experience. Experience also tends to bring the ability to better cope with pressure and to manage your own emotions in game situations."

"It is very self satisfying when you know that you have 'nailed' a game. In the refereeing business, no news is good news and I think it must be one of the few jobs that you know you have done a good job when no one is talking about you."

"The first and second grade guys often helped me with how to speak to players, attitudes, behaviour etc., as did most other referees who were in the grades above me."

Our association also has a panel of guys who watch our games and give us reports but I wouldn't say that I was mentored by them, rather they would tell me where they thought I could improve based on how they refereed themselves. I often found this

conflicting based on personal styles so often I would approach current boys in the ranks above me for guidance."

"Although I wish I had started at least five years earlier I have been lucky enough to referee in New Zealand, the USA, Cook Islands, Argentina, Morocco, Fiji and England."

"When I was 8 years old, one of my cousins played in the same soccer team as Greg McCallum's son. As I knew who he was from TV, I wrote a 'fan letter', which he returned. About a month later my father took me to Concord oval to see Penrith play Bulldogs. Greg McCallum was refereeing and by chance he was walking to the change-room when we walked past. I introduced myself and he remembered who I was and talked to me for a little while. Being only eight, I felt so important that someone 'famous' remembered who I was. From that point on I idolised Greg McCallum and looked up to anyone who was a referee. When I was 15, I took up refereeing and this year will be my tenth. I still have the letter that Greg McCallum wrote to me."

"There is no better feeling as a referee than to know you got it right. To know the hard work in your preparation in training and as a team paid off and you were on the spot and made the correct call. That is the moment we work for as referees, coming off from a game and knowing you nailed it! That's what it's all about."



The 2007 Premier League and JBC referees, officials and coaches raised over \$20,000 for the Starlight Foundation in 2007. Here they pose with a plaque in recognition of their efforts.

"Referees as with all occupations perform better with experience. Refereeing Rugby League in the NRL is as tough a career as you can imagine. I have worked with nearly every sport's officials during my various roles and Rugby League is the toughest to referee in terms of demands on fitness, speed and external focus and expectation of getting it right all of the time."

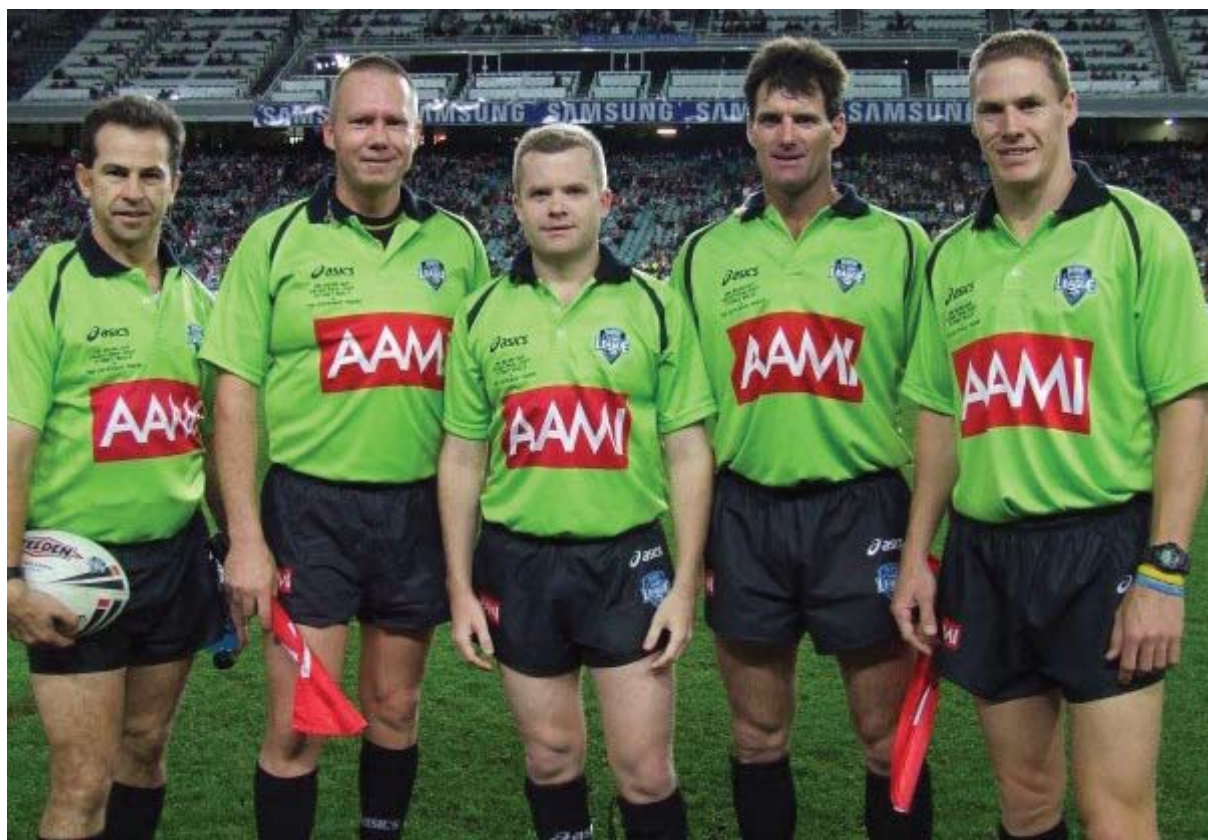
"The major highlight for me has been refereeing at the traditional stadiums at the SCG, Redfern and Leichhardt etc, and just feeling the tradition surrounding you, knowing that you're standing in the same spot as all the great players and referees before you. Another highlight for me was taking a couple of kids from England into the sheds to meet some players, the players were obliging and met the kids and the look on their faces was priceless as they met their heroes and got autographs"

"The major flaw the game has today is the insistence of the powers to be recruiting referees for the top level who have special physical attributes; people who can run a 4 minute mile or who can run a 100meters in

10 seconds...Refereeing is about managing people and dealing with difficult situations rationally and sensibly. To this you need special kind of people and the majority of people being pushed to the highest level do not posses this special quality. As a matter of fact one senior NRL official said "give me an athlete and I will make a referee out of him". That is not referee development at all."



Referee Paul Simpkins (centre) and touch judges Steve Lyons and Steve Nash head for the sheds at the conclusion of a match at Shark Park.



*2007 Jim Beam Cup Grand Final officials
(l to r): George Jankowski, Shaun Evans, Chris James, Angus Henry, Robbie Bowen*

Evolution of rules

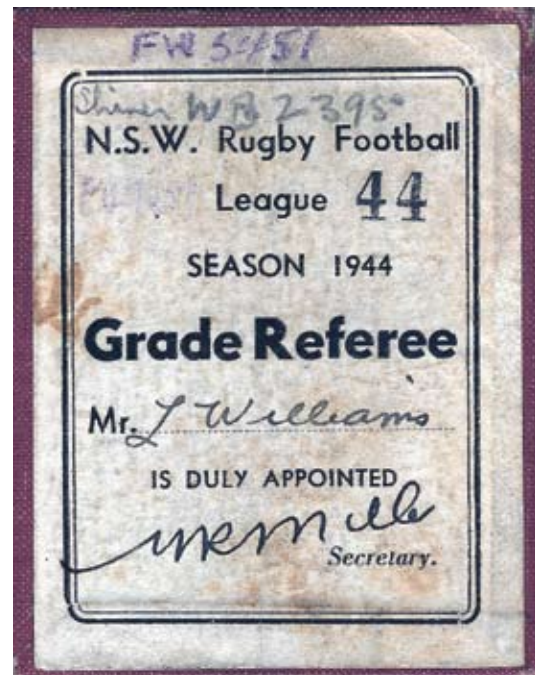
Rugby league as it was played in 1908 would be barely recognisable to modern eyes. Although the breakaway from union had occurred in 1895 in England, it wasn't until 1906 that teams had been reduced from 15 to 13 players and the play the ball rule had only been introduced at the same time.

The play the ball was far from the speedy resumption of play we see in 2008. It was more akin to a rolling rugby union maul, and it is important to remember that the play the ball was supposed to be a mini scrum and a contest for possession.

This ensured that strength and mobility were required of forwards so that even though there was an unlimited number of tackles, each team had ample opportunity to contest the ball in scrums or in the play the ball.

Since its very inception the Association has been at the forefront of the evolution of the rules that have brought us through the various rules for defence, scrummaging interpretations, four and six tackle eras.

The changes have ensured that the role of the referee has had to constantly change to adapt to keep abreast of the new challenges that each initiative has presented. Improvements in coaching and fitness of players in recent years have also demanded a higher level of athleticism



from modern referees to enable them to stay up with play and get themselves into the correct positions to make the critical calls.

Not all the changes have been smooth or for the better, according to several referees. To a man, the officials who controlled matches under the unlimited rule, many of whom also refereed under the four and six tackle rules, say the unlimited rule was better.

"I believe the worst thing that ever happened to Rugby League was the introduction of the limited tackle rule."



George Boss instructs the 1908 Maori squad on the wiles of scrummaging

"Looking back at old games you see the old 3m and 5m rules and how close they were to each other and unlimited tackles who hard would that have been your team mates would have wanted to kill you for knocking on. I feel 10m and 6 tackles have been a big influence on the way the game is played."

"It is now a more predictable game and the attacking side can virtually do no wrong."

"There have been far too many changes and the scrums now are a disgrace."

Likewise, many bemoan the death of competitive scrums, as succinctly expressed by one former first grade referee:

*"The scrums are *&\$#!"*

Most of those who have refereed into the new millennium prefer the modern game and the speed of play which is its most notable characteristic, although it presents new challenges.

"The rules have followed the changing nature of the game. Rugby League is now quicker, more mobile,



Flamboyant and controversial Greg Hartley lays down the law in the 1981 Grand Final

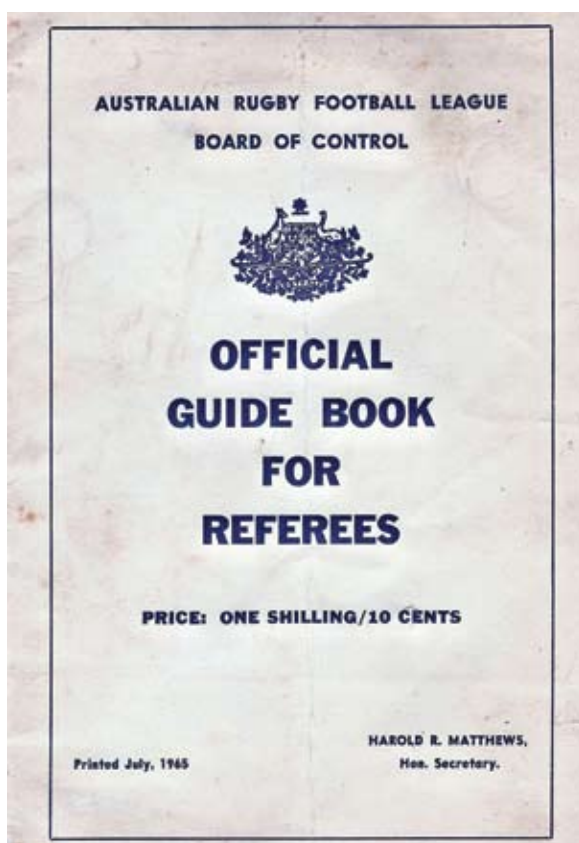
more structured and more pressurised than ever before."

"Basically the Rule changes over the years have made the game faster. I don't think the rule makers always take into account what impact the changes they made will have on refereeing the game."

"The game is much quicker than previously (obviously). There is also an ongoing battle as coaches try to overcome rule changes, sometimes forcing further adjustments/interpretations to the rules eg grapple tackle, stripping laws"

"Overall, I am pleased that the rule changes have led to a much faster game with greater athleticism required from players and officials. However, I am concerned with the growing predictability of the game, the derision from fans associated with scrums, the stripping of the ball rule and the introduction of wrestling skills by coaches that produced the grapple tackle."

Others take a more holistic approach and see things in the context of both the modern and days of yore:



"The introductions of mini and mod rules have been a major step forward for the game. At senior level the rule changes have made the game a lot faster but I think to the detriment at times of the true ball playing forwards and halves. Speed, speed, speed seems to be the go where I used to love more the battle between forwards so backs could create movement and plays."

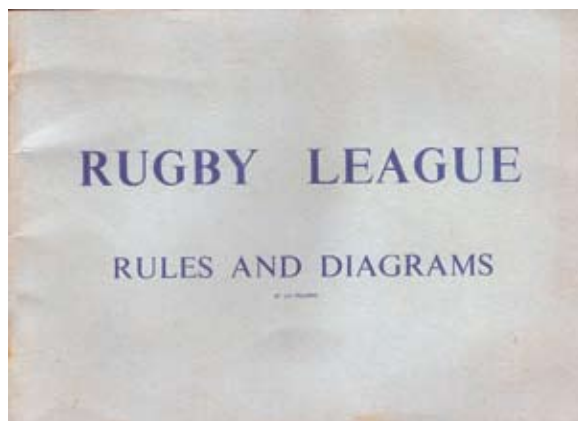
There are many stakeholders in Rugby League today apart from just referees, players and clubs - the media, players union, sponsors, etc - and all are entitled to some say in the direction of the game.

"These days we seem to change the Laws to suit the Coaches and the Media, however in some cases they are beneficial to the game."

Regardless of who drives the progression, though, it is the referees who are left to carry the burden of implementing whatever changes are introduced. The measure of their success in achieving that goal is the strength of Rugby League in this, its centenary year.

And just to demonstrate that nothing has changed:

"During the past two years we have seen several changes in the rules of the game. Some have been very successful, particularly the rule governing the acting half back in the playing of the ball, but



Shayne Hayne indicates a player is on report in a Wests Tigers match.

would this change have been necessary if the ball had been played in accordance with the rule which was framed in order to give both teams an equal opportunity of gaining possession.



Kevin Roberts keeps an eye on proceedings during a Parramatta - Canterbury match in the mid 1980's.

It must be agreed that if a rule is incapable of functioning properly then it should be scrapped, but have we, administrators, coaches, players, referees made a genuine effort?

Rules which have stood the test of time should not be overthrown because some teams adopt illegal tactics to prevent them.

From 1961 Annual Report by AJ Davis Pres

Funny Stories

After "Coota" had lost a couple of cups under my control, at my next visit I was amused to pick up the local paper and read in big type:

Maher Cup, Fisher Park 3.15pm
Cootamundra v Young
Referee: E Kerr "The Hoodoo" Referee

It reminds me of an incident which happened in the local barber's shop. While waiting my turn for a shave, football topic was in full swing. The barber, with whom I was well acquainted, winked his eye as soon as I entered the saloon.

This took place:

Barber to Customer: "They tell me Kerr's got the match again. What sort of referee is he?"

Customer: "Oh, he's a _____ hoodoo. Can't win under that baldy #\$\$%&^."

A few more uncomplimentary remarks were exchanged, and as soon as the customer was out of the chair, the barber said: "You're next, Mr Kerr. Had a good trip up?"

Arriving at Barmedman to take control of another Maher Cup fixture, in which George Mason, former Western Suburbs half was coach of the home team and Aubrey Kelly (St George) was in charge of Young. Rumours of likely rough play were being freely discussed amongst the

townspeople on every street corner. I was introduced to the Sergeant of Police – a small man for a policeman. He was getting in early, telling all the locals what he was going to do if there was any "stoush". At 3 o'clock, just prior to the commencement of the match, I told the Sergeant, who was bustling about like a busy bee, that I was going into the dressing rooms of the teams to warn the players against rough play.

I first entered the visiting team's room, the Sergeant following close on my heels. I warned the side against rough play and what action I would take. Then the Sergeant hopped in and, in a threatening attitude, addressed the players as follows: - "I'll be on the line and I've told the referee that the first man he sees swinging a punch to put up his hand and give me the office. I'll come straight over and run him in."

That was all right. I then went into the local side's dressing room, giving them exactly the same warning as the visiting side. The Sergeant again hopped in and said: "Look here boys, get and get on with the game, and get right into them." Some Sergeant!

From the Rugby League News, June 22, 1935

During another Maher Cup fixture the officials were presented by the local constabulary with a rather vexatious problem, as Ted Kerr explained. "About the middle of the second half, with the crowds



Greg McCallum with the support of Touch Judge Steve Betts gives Mark Carroll 10 minutes in the sin bin during a local derby between North Sydney and Manly

roaring, motor horns blowing, everybody getting excited, touch judge of the visiting team entered the playing area and reported that a policeman had threatened to “put him in” if he gave the local player as having gone into touch next time he was going for a try.”

From the Rugby League News, June 22, 1935

1972 Picnic at Lane Cove

“You remember last year at the Picnic, we had the episode of the Driving Instructor, this year we had the incident of the Diving Instructor....

The children had begun a game of pick up cricket with some of the bigger kids joining in, and in the course of events, there came to bat one with the flair of Keith Miller named Laurie “Dasher” Bruyeres, who with Eagle Eye, did spot a donkey drop bowled by John Connor, whose bowling had been well received particularly by the batsman, and “The Dasher” smote that ball with the might of the village Blacksmith.

Through the air with purpose true, it flew towards the boundary, in this case the bordering creek, nicely filled with water after the recent heavy rain. When like a lightning bolt came a fieldsman leaping like Rudolph Nureyev and whose ballet grace would have made Rudi blush, he pranced and pirouetted his way across the green sward, gathering the distance between himself and the flying ball like a gazelle, finally leaping upwards and backwards plucking the ball from the air. But as he came down to earth the look of amazement on his face indicated that this time he had gone too far and was heading into the brook, and the last words he heard as the icy waters wrapped around him was the shrill cry by Umpire Arthur Konnecke of “No Ball!”.

From the 1973 Annual Report

“Ever wondered why it takes some members of the Examination Board longer to put candidates through for their Referees’ Ticket?

Laurie, Dennis and Jack were in Dubbo recently and they got an invitation to visit the Dubbo Plains Zoo; Dennis, who gets on very well with animals (he works for the Big Elephant*), decided he would like to go but Laurie and Jack having heard what happened to Joy Adamson of “Born Free” fame, weren’t real keen. She was massaged to death by a lion. So Laurie says, “Jack, spin this joker out for an hour and we won’t have to go.” The candidate had to sweat it out for over an hour to get his ticket!”

From the NSWRLRA Annual Report 1980

* The Commonwealth Bank, who used an elephant logo

Dinny Murray was always a good and helpful judge and his opinion was valued and much sought after. Early in Cliff Brown’s career he was very pleased to see Dinny at Jubilee Oval, Glebe, prior to his A Grade game. Cliff was pleased with his game but was surprised when he couldn’t find Dinny for his report. When Cliff approached Dinny at the Referees’ Meeting that week and Cliff reminded him that he hadn’t remained at the oval to give his report, Dinny said “I couldn’t take any more and had to leave at half time.”

The History of Balmain RLRA: The Blue Ribbon Association

“A large attendance greeted the first social function of the year, a self supporting Chinese banquet at Strathfield. Everyone was there – except the chef!

When he did finally turn up and the food flowed freely, the major issue of the night turned out to be the unveiling of the 1982 vintage of the Croydon Valley Red. Winemaker Dennis Spagarino advised that the wine was best drunk with the teeth firmly clenched to prevent the ingestion of seeds and skins, not to mention toenails. Doug Wintin said it should be marketed commercially as the “Saviour” brand (9 out of 10 people who drink it for the first time exclaim Je-e-e-sus Chri-i-ist!”

From the 1982 Annual Report



"Penrith's first picnic involved a bus trip to Narrabeen. The younger members answered the call of the waves on their Malibu boards.

The President of the time assessed this as somewhat easier than refereeing and took up the challenge. When attempting to hang five he came a cropper. It cost the President \$48 for a new set of dentures to prove there's no fool like an old fool.

Speaking of Jack Harris' dentures, they certainly found some unusual resting places during his active days. Like the day at Redfern Oval Wee Georgie Piper ground them into the Bulli mud with the question "Are these yours sir?"

Then there was the trial match at Cumberland Oval when he lost them while chasing Ken Foorde down the wing for a try. Peter Dimond picked them up as he made his way back with the ball under his arm.

On the bench was a young winger, come fullback, called Len Stacker. You can imagine his surprise when he was appointed babysitters to those dentures until half time!

From "For The Love Of The Game: Penrith Referees Association 25th Anniversary"

One night after a game two tired and hungry touch judges, namely Ian McCall and Bill Hallibutt, pulled up late at a fast food store for some sustenance. Whilst inside they looked up to see their vehicle rolling down the hill after they neglected to put the handbrake on!

During a Second Division game between Blacktown and St Marys at Francis Park, situated adjacent to the train line, both teams and referee Col Turnell had an impromptu interruption in the middle of the second half when they all stopped to watch the Indian-Pacific pass the ground!

While refereeing a game in Tasmania I was knocked out by a wayward kickoff which hit me in the back of the head and I was down for the count. Quite amusing for the spectators and players, but I didn't think it was especially humorous at the time!

Refereeing Cronulla and St George at Endeavour one day, Touch Judge John 'Bomber' Blomfield ran on to the field with his flag up. I stopped the game and asked Bomber 'what's wrong.' He replied, ~ "Nothing wrong mate, all going well, just thought I would have a chat such a nice day, see you at half time," then ran off the field. I turned and had twenty six players staring at me

waiting for a decision and I could not remember how I had stopped the game let alone to restart it.

Rod Lawrence was refereeing a reserve grade trial game a number of years back. The weather was hot and so a water bottle was being brought out after every try. Another referee, who was acting water boy at the time, filled the bottle with beer, and when Rod took a swig, expecting water, he nearly choked on the field!

Sean Hampstead was being rubbed down by a very attractive female masseur in Townsville, one of the first female masseurs employed by the League. She had rubbed the backs of Shaun's calves and thighs and asked him to roll over. His response was 'I can't'!

I remember refereeing an Amco Cup match at Leichhardt Oval in 1976 between Norths and Newtown. It was cold, pouring rain and there were about 150 people in the ground. Late in the last quarter a scuffle turned into a nasty brawl with about 24 players taking part. I looked at the clock and saw there were seven minutes to go and thought "They'll have to stop when the siren goes!" The fight actually went for about 45 seconds and was the first instance when video footage was used to suspend the three cited players.

After a match in the 1960s myself and another referee must have been a bit slow leaving. By the time we vacated the dressing room the ground had been locked and we had to scale a high fence to get out of the ground!

After a match a spectator came up and shook me vigorously by the hand. "Congratulations", he offered. "Thanks", I replied, but a bit too soon as he continued "That was the worst exhibition of refereeing I have ever seen!"

A referee in a local A grade game was having trouble with his scrums one day. After the umpteenth re-setting,



Tim Mander in the thick of the action.

he separated the front rows, walked into the tunnel and dropped the world's biggest fart. Both sets of forwards burst out laughing, and under the threat of a repeat performance, the scrums were no longer an issue.

Hookers have never been known for their intelligence and in the days of competitive scrums would test the patience of any referee to try and secure possession for their team. One day I was running as first grade touch judge for Jack Harris at Lidcombe. Prior to a scrum in the second half Jack called out Wests' hooker Ken Stonestreet and asked him to place his finger in his left ear.

When Stonestreet enquired as to why Jack replied that he didn't want his words to go straight through. Stonestreet was not real happy about it but he got the message!

While leaving Leichhardt Oval one day after a match between Balmain and Souths Ray O'Donnell, who had grown up at Balmain, saw a woman he knew from the area and blew her kiss to say G'Day. Unbeknown to Ray, though, the woman was a rabid South Sydney fan and she hit him when he walked past!

Steve Nash was Referee and John Blomfield was Touch Judge at a particular game Bomber (John Blomfield) can onto the field and said to Steve I want 2,5,7,9,13,4 and the supplementary 1. This was around the time that Lotto started in NSW.

I was refereeing Penrith and North Sydney at Penrith and was sandwiched between Geoff Gerard and Don McKinnon when the two big units came together and knocked me out for a few seconds. When I looked up my touch judge, Les Mathews, standing over me said – "don't worry mate I have stopped the game. We always knew you country blokes would go to sleep on the job at some time." Meanwhile Geoff Gerard thanked me for helping him tackle McKinnon.

Following a game at North Sydney Oval, Russell Turner was driving onto the expressway when he started to choke on his post-game jelly beans. He had to stop the car and, after some anxious moments, was eventually able



Bill Harrigan awards the try to Steve Jackson in extra-time of the 1989 Grand Final

to dislodge the offending lolly. Next week, Russ opened his kit bag to find that his jelly beans had all been sliced in half by his wife to assist him...

"I was on the line during a game at Belmore and I could hear these two boys who would have been all of twelve years old talking. One was abusing the referee all the time. The other boy said to him, "Why are you abusing the Referee? He is having a good game." The other replied: "That's why you come to the game!"

Newtown lock Peter Ryan had notoriously poor eyesight, even though he was a very good player. One day he lost a contact lens on the field and I had to stop play. It was a sight to see 26 players down on all fours looking for the bloody thing!

"At this period (1929) I received all my appointments for the affiliated third grade, and shall never forget the final of the competition which I refereed on Alexandria Oval. At this time the City Houses competition had just been finalised, and the two teams had a few "ring-ins" from the City Houses, there was an exceptionally large crowd to see the game, and the general gossip was that the match was going to be a "Donnybrook". However, I was determined to maintain strict control. At the commencement of the game I lined up both teams and gave them some strong words of advice. In the first quarter of an hour, owing to hard play, two of the players were carried off the field. At the finish I was congratulating myself on getting through

the match without any trouble. I was soon disillusioned, immediately after sounding the final whistle, by about a thousand spectators jumping the fence and rushing the field. Free fights were everywhere. Officials from one club had protested against the "ring-ins" from the other club. By this time I had reached the dressing room, which was a room about four by two, and about four feet high; there was a "short" in the electric installation, and anybody coming in contact with the roof received a severe shock, which was a blessing in disguise to me, as the officials of one of the teams wanted my scalp for receiving the protest. My two touch judges had already disappeared and I thought I was in for a bad time, when I was told that the protesting club had withdrawn the objection. Everybody retired happy!"

Reminiscences by Chris McGrath from Rugby League News July 27, 1935

The wit of Laurie

Leaving the old Sydney Sports Ground one Sunday afternoon after a hectic match I was greeted by a fan who called "Great game, Laurie, great game... It's a pity you didn't see the bloody thing!"

Another who doubted my vision was Pommy hardman Malcolm Reilly. One day in a match between Manly and Wests a stray dog made its way onto the field and was interfering with play. At a stoppage Reilly grabbed the dog but brought it straight up to me and enquired politely "Yours sir?"

In a match at the Sydney Cricket Ground between Souths and Balmain Mike Cleary dived for a try right in the corner. I believed he had hit the corner post first and my touch judge John "Monty" Montgomery confirmed this. I ruled "no try" and the Souths supporters hurled rubbish of every description onto the in goal and field. Over the fence clambered a bearded figure from the Hill searching among the pile of rubbish. I thought I'd better get rid of this guy before others follow him, so in a commanding voice I cried "Alright, over the fence, you can't stay there, go on get out!" "OK, OK.." he replied, "Don't do your block, I'm going. I just want to find the FULL can - I threw the wrong one!"

How often do we hear ex-players bemoan the fact that they did not know the rules of the game when playing the game and evidence of this was revealed

to me in a game between Souths and Manly at the SCG. On entering Souths' dressing room for boot inspection the late Clive Churchill said "Jimmy Morgan would like you to answer a ruling sir." "What's your problem son?" I said. "Well," Morgan started, "After being tackled if I plant the ball on the ground and instead of rolling it back, put my foot on the ball, leave it there and the other mob come running through before the ball clears the ruck, are they offside?" He was correct but this piece of ruling had confused him until he wasn't sure if he was right or wrong. "Why don't you try it and find out," I said. Five minutes into the game Morgan was tackled right in front of Manly's posts. Slowly he got to his feet, placed the ball on the ground, stuck his foot on it and left it there. Manly came steaming through. "You're offside, Manly," I said as I awarded the penalty. Morgan turned to me with a look of confirmation and said "Those silly buggers don't know the rules sir!"

During a game in Alice Springs a fight erupted and one of the local touch judges officiating jumped in and started hitting players with his flag. When I enquired as to what the hell he was doing he replied "It's OK. There's no fight left in them now Laurie - I fixed em!"

During a game between Eastern Suburbs and Manly at the SCG in 1974 Graham Eadie and Russell Fairfax were having an old fashioned kicking duel. After Fairfax kicked the ball on one occasion John O'Neill, then playing with Manly, came through and tackled him. "Penalty to Easts" I said as I blew my whistle. "What for?" demanded O'Neill indignantly. "Late tackle," I said. "Oh C'mon," he replied, "I got here as quick as I could!"



Tim Mander listens to Daniel Wagon's pleas

Modern Era 1975 - 2008

“A Whole New World”

The years since 1975 have seen dramatic changes to every aspect of Rugby League and referees have felt the force of change as much as anyone else.

We have seen increased media coverage of the game and unprecedented scrutiny of decisions and referees, with league magazines, newspapers, television, radio and internet all now putting the performance of officials under the microscope. As always, there are sections of the media who are only too willing to criticise referees and point out any perceived shortcomings.

There have been enormous changes in the coaching and development of referees, training methods, review mechanisms and recruitment. Whereas preseason training used to consist of a couple of training runs before the trials, officials now have their fitness analysed to assess the physical demands they face in controlling matches at the elite level:

“On average during a game a Match Official covers a total of 7607m, this is comprised of 61.5%, 4678m walking/slow jogging; 21.5%, 1635m of moderate running; 11%, 836m fast running and 6%, 456m sprinting. In further classifying the information into low intensity (below 7km/h) moderate intensity (between 7 -12km/h) and high intensity (above 12km/h) activity, on average the NRL Match Official spent 61.5%, 21.5% and 17% of game time respectively in low, moderate and high intensity activity.

With reference to heart rate zones, it is interesting to note that during an NRL Premiership game a Match Official spent 7.5%, 6 minutes in light, 27.5%, 22 minutes in moderate, 34%, 27 minutes and 15 seconds in threshold and a staggering 31%, 24 minutes and 45 seconds in what was determined as Match Threshold Heart Rate Zone of 170bpm or above.

The heart rate data indicates that a high percentage of game time; 65% 52 minutes is spent in the threshold (high anaerobic) and match threshold heart rate zones. It should be noted that heart rate is not a reliable indicator of how fast the Match Official is moving, as there is a time lag with heart rates staying high in order to repay the oxygen

debt that is incurred during periods of anaerobic work. The heart rate data does demonstrate the cardiovascular load present in the games analysed and can be used for future reference in the planning and periodisation of training phases.”

From “Physiological Demands of NRL Match Officiating:” By Klington Hoare, Athlete Performance Coordinator National Rugby League Match Officials

Cliff Brown was appointed as the first full time Director of Referees by the NSWRL in 1976, while Dennis Braybrook became the first NSWRL Co-Ordinator of Referees in 1991

The rise of technology has been a feature of the last three decades. The first citing and suspension on video evidence came in 1976 and the use of technologically has grown markedly since. The use of microphones for touch judges came in the early 1990s and video referees pressed their first buttons during the Super League war. Both have been logical during the electronic age and undoubtedly assisted referees in getting more decisions right.

The changing roles of officials also saw the introduction of in goal touch judges to assist in adjudications in the in-goal area. Although since superseded at NRL level by the video referee, they remain an important addition to signature games at other levels where the technology is not available.

Finance is another area that has seen enormous change during the period, with the impact being best revealed by figures: the 1975 season saw the Association have income of \$2,761.66 in the General Account, in 2007 that amount had grown



Ben Kennedy discusses points of law with Tony Archer

to a phenomenal \$344,768.49. The remuneration available to modern referees would be unfathomable to the Pioneers of the Association, but they would also be proud that referees are realistically rewarded.

During this time the Association, and the game as a whole, has seen sponsorship become and increasingly important source of revenue. TNT was the first sponsor of referees, and their support over eighteen years was a happy and mutually beneficial partnership. Their involvement through Sir Peter Abeles and Lindsay Plowes was greatly appreciated by all referees. Ansett then took over the sleeve sponsorship before FAI became jersey sponsor in 1996, although both companies are no longer with us! They were succeeded by AAMI as jersey sponsor and Qantas as sleeve sponsor, an arrangement that has pleased all parties since 2001.

There has also been an expansion of rugby league with new clubs such as Canberra and Illawarra (1982), Gold Coast, Newcastle and Brisbane (1988), North Qld, Auckland, the Western Reds and South Qld (1995) which brought officials from those areas of in Australia under the Association's wing and created a wider base for aspiring referees but also presented difficulties with travel and increased costs.

There have also been problems, especially at the junior and rural reaches of the game, which reflect the greater social trends of a lack of respect for authority, aggression and community disorder. Fortunately accreditation of coaches, the introduction of the Safeplay Code and Codes



Paul Harragon registers his disapproval to referee David Manson during a Knights match in 1997

of Conduct have addressed, if not completely eliminated, those concerns. The Association was not immune from its internal pains, either, with the late 1970s and early '80s being as turbulent a period as any that came before.

The most fractious event without doubt, though, was the Super League conflict which caused a schism in the ranks of referees. The rebel competition needed referees as badly as the ARL (although both sides treated it largely as an afterthought) and the whole episode rent asunder the active membership in the years from 1995-97. In balance, it must also be noted that it raised the profile of referees and introduced some worthwhile improvements such as the video referee.

Unlike the clubs, which decided to go to align themselves with the ARL or News Ltd, the referees were split in two. When the reconciliation came in 1998 the authorities attempted to glue the two pieces back together again although, a decade after the events, it is now fair to say that it has taken the last ten years to heal the wounds.

The chasm of the Super League war and the reunification of 1998 brought about changes in the rules, but the period since 1975 has also seen major changes to competitions – method of determining finalists, the demise of preseason and midweek competitions, the rise (and fall) of the sevens format – and referees have had to adjust to each as it has arisen.

Equally significant was the restructuring of the ranks which saw the establishment of a separate NRL squad of referees from 1998, the increased professionalism and the introduction of full time referees at the top level. The long-mooted national federation of referees became a reality in October 1999 and although still in the infant stage has taken on responsibility for many matters of national relevance.

There has also been the evolution of the rules and changing interpretations which, placed alongside the improvements in coaching and fitness of players, made Rugby League a faster and altogether different game than that played under either Tom McMahon. Perhaps the greatest change has been at the junior league level, with the introduction of Mini and Mod League. Conceived by Peter



Bill Harrigan, acknowledged as the finest referee of the modern era.

Corcoran over 20 years ago, it has revolutionised and revitalised the rugby league experience for players under the age of thirteen.

All this has been played out within the context that is modern Australia. Referees have felt the effects of multiculturalism, with several officials in the time under review representing various ethnic groups. The introduction of female referees and achievements of many women in the last decade has also been evidence of a wider social trend. Jenny Robinson became the first female to control a NSWRL grade fixture and there are several others, including 2008 squad members Melissa Yates and Danielle Berry that have followed in her footsteps.

Prominent amongst the men in the centre of big games during the modern era have been names such as Gary Cook, Jack Danzey, Greg Hartley, Mick Stone, Dennis Spagarino, Barry Goldsworthy, Kevin Roberts, Dennis Braybrook, John Gocher, Chris Ward, Graeme West, Ian Parnaby, Noel Bissett, Greg McCallum, Graham Annesley, Bill Harrigan, Eddie Ward, David Manson, Kelvin Jeffes, Steve Clark, Tim Mander, Sean Hampstead, Paul Simpkins and Tony Archer.

The leading lights in the roll call of touch judges includes George Benson, Ron Pearce, Doug Wintin, Barry Cross, Carl and Bryan Gilchrist, Les Matthews, Ian McCall, Martin Weekes, Neil

Clements, Phil Cooley, Joe Griffiths, Mick Ryan, Peter Ryan, Paul Kalina, John McCormack, Barry Ruttle, Phil Elliss, Max Dunn, Brian Bonnie, Steve Betts, Steve Chiddy, Steve Carroll, Matt Cecchin and Russell Turner.

Ray O'Donnell also made a brief comeback when he filled in for Brian Barry (whilst wearing his civvies!) after the latter was felled by an apple during the 1977 Grand Final replay.

The likes of Laurie Bruyeres, Don MacDonald, Ian McCall and Tony Danks have served as President, while Eric Cox, Frank Walsh, Col Turnell and Les Matthews handled the role of Secretary and John Gocher, Peter Longhurst, Mick Stone, Gary Lee, Peter Filmer and Paul Kalina looked after the increasing responsibilities as Treasurer.

Since the establishment of a Board of Directors in 2003, Tony Danks and Dennis Spagarino have served as Chairman, Les Matthews as Executive Officer, Paul Kalina and Darren Alchin as Director of Finance while positions such as Directors of Referee Development, Member Services, Affiliate Liaison and Marketing and Communications also underline the progress made since 1908.

What then of the future? The last 100 years has shown that there are always going to be challenges and changes that have to be confronted and dealt with by the game, the Association and individual officials.

It is impossible to predict what dangers lurk around the corner or at some point in the future but one thing is certain – the NSWRL Referees Association will meet them with the confidence borne from a century of hard work, dedication, knowledge, passion and excellence. Those qualities are part of the very fibre of the Association and will ensure we endure for another 100 years and beyond.



2007 Premier League and JBC officials

Honour Board

Life Members In Memoriam

K. Arnold 1971
L. Baggott 1945
A. Ballerum 1917
J. Bates 1946
T. Bellew O.A.M 1961
G. Benson 1977
G. Bishop 1950
J. Black 1928
G. Boyd 1918
D. Bratton 1953
D. Braybrook 1982
T. Brennan 1940
R. Brock 1967
J. Buchanan 1924
E. Buckley 1937
S. Carey 1956
J. Clarke 1943
O. Cohen 1948
J. Colenso 1989
A. Collins 1947
T. Costello 1936
B. Cowley 1969
E. Cox O.A.M 1970
W. Cuke 1956
R. Cummins 1966
J. Davies 1954
A. Davis 1950
L. Deane 1935
F. Delaney 1932
A. Dennis 1936
W. Devine Snr 1949
R. Dick 1976
T. Dickenson 1921
R. Drake 1937
H. Elliott 1929
J. Farquhar 1929
J. Farrelly 1977
A. Farrow 1922
A. Fifield 1947
E. Fletcher 1941
W. Fry 1936
C. Gilchrist 1983
T. Grew 1958
G. Griffin 1951
J. Griffin 1939
R. Hall 1939
L. Hansen 1925
A. Holt 1966
C. Hudson 1975
J. Jewell 1988
J. Kelly 1954
J. Kelly 1982
W. Kelly 1969

K. Keough 1970
E. Kerr 1938
D. Lawler 1957
P. Lee 1942
T. Leffler 1956
D. Macdonald 1976
M. Maloney 1941
J. Martin 1968
H. Millington 1934
J. McGauley 1944
T. McMahon 1915
H. Millington 1934
J. Moses B.E.M 1944
J. Murray 1934
W. Neill 1946
A. Neville 1987
J. O'Brien 1952
R. O'Donnell 1965
A. Oxford 1952
K. Page 1978
E. Paine 1948
C. Pearce 1960
G. Pearce 1953
H. Pierce 1963
H. Poulton 1925
L. Rosen 1955
H. Rowlands 1928
M. Ryan 1991
C. Shomberg 1972
H. Schutema 1940
A. Shiner O.A.M 1955
A. Shipway 1959
R. Smyth 1951
A. Soane 1971
A. Spankie 1945
J. Turner 1942
B. Wales Snr 1935
F. Walsh 1965
R. Ward 1949
A. Welch 1921
C. Wigzell B.E.M 1938
G. Wirth 1939
C. Yorke 1943

Life Members

B. Barry 1974
S. Betts 2000
N. Bissett 2000
B. Bolton 1993
B. Bonnie 2007
C. Brown 1963
L. Bruyeres 1972
N. Clement 1981
J. Connor 1985
P. Cooley 1994
T. Danks 2001

M. Dunn 1998
P. Elliss 1978
F. Erickson 1964
A. Farlow 2005
P. Filmer 1995
R. Garwood 1988
B. Gately 1992
B. Gilchrist 1998
J. Gocher 1983
M. Godfrey 1979
B. Goldsworthy 2002
J. Griffiths 2003
J. Harris O.A.M 1980
T. Healy 2004
Kevin Jeffes 1995
P. Kalina 2004
A. Konnecke 1968
F. Leonard 2006
P. Longhurst 1986
L. Matthews 1986
I. McCall 1984
J. Montgomery OAM 1973
T. Murphy 1985
J. O'Sullivan 1974
I. Parnaby 1996
R. Pearce 2001
K. Roberts 1992
B. Ruttle 1999
P. Ryan 1991
L. Samuelson 1973
D. Spagarino 1997
M. Stone 1989
R. Styles 1994
E. Tinsley 1967
M. Tomsett 1979
C. Turnell 1984
C. Ward 1990
M. Weekes 1997
G. West 1999
L. Williams 1957
D. Wintin 1981
B. Wiseman 1987

Honorary Associate Members for Life

J. R. Drewes D
W. Fallowfield OBE D
K. Gardner D
H. Gillard D
P. Goener
C. Turner
W. Petley D
L. Plowes

Honour Board

OFFICE BEARERS

Association Presidents

Mr.H.HOYLE and Mr.E.HOOPER 1908
Mr.E.HOOPER 1909 - 1912
Mr.T.McMAHON 1913 - 1915
Mr.A.BALLERUM 1916 - 1920
Mr.J.FARQUHAR 1921 - 1924
Mr.H.ROWLANDS 1925 - 1929
Mr.B.WALES 1930 - 1931
Mr.H.ROWLANDS 1932 - 1933
Mr.B.WALES 1934
Mr.A.DENNIS 1935 - 1942
Mr.J.GRIFFIN 1943 - 1951
Mr.C.WIGZELL 1952 - 1958
Mr.A.DAVIS 1959 - 1967
Mr.A.SHINER 1968 - 1977
Mr.L.BRUYERES 1978 - 1979
Mr.D.MacDONALD 1980 - 1984
Mr.I.McCALL 1985 - 2000
Mr.T.DANKS 2001 - 2002

Association Secretaries

Mr.A.WELCH 1908
Mr.W.FINEGAN 1909 - 1912
Mr.H.ALCORN 1913 - 1914
Mr.A.FARROW 1915
Mr.A.THORNTON 1916 - 1922
Mr.F.DELANEY 1923 - 1937
Mr.T.BRENNAN 1938 - 1962
Mr.E.COX 1963 - 1977
Mr.F.WALSH 1978 - 1983
Mr.C.TURNELL 1984 - 1985
Mr.F.WALSH 1986 - 1989
Mr.L.MATTHEWS 1990 - 2002

Association Treasurers

Mr.G.BOSS 1908
Mr.A.WELCH 1909
Mr.A.BALLERUM 1910 - 1912
Mr.A.FARROW 1913 - 1914
Mr.C.YARD 1915
Mr.B.YARD 1916
Mr.V.DICKENSON 1917 - 1922
Mr.H.MILLINGTON 1923 - 1941
Mr.H.MILLINGTON and Mr.C.WARD 1942
Mr.H.MILLINGTON 1943 - 1956

Mr.O.COHEN 1957 - 1978
Mr.J.GOCHER 1979 - 1983
Mr.P.LONGHURST 1984 - 1985
Mr.M.STONE 1986
Mr.G.LEE 1987 - 1989
Mr.P.FILMER 1990 - 1998
Mr.P.KALINA 1999 - 2002

Chairman

Tony DANKS (2003 - 2006)
Dennis SPAGARINO (2007 -)

Executive Officer

Les MATTHEWS (2003 -)

Director Of Finance

Paul KALINA (2003 - 2006)
Darren ALCHIN (2007 -)

Director Of Referee Development

Dennis SPAGARINO (2003 - 2005)
Peter FILMER (2006 - 2007)

Director Of Member Services

Tom HEALY (2003)
Allan FARLOW (2004 - 2006)
Luke BUGDEN (2007 -)

Director Of Affiliate Liaison

Bryan GILCHRIST (2003 - 2004)
Doug KEEN (2005 - 2006)
Glenn JACKSON (2007 -)

Director Of Marketing & Communication

Jason ROBINSON (2003 - 2005)
Steve CLARK (2006)
Tom HEALY (2007)

Honour Board

2008 Executive

Patrons

Kevin Roberts and Jack O'Sullivan

Chairman

Dennis Spagarino

Executive Officer

Les Matthews

Director of

Finance

Darren Alchin

Director of Referee

Development

Greg McCallum

Director of

Affiliate Liaison

Glenn Jackson

Director of

Member Services

Luke Bugden

Director of

Marketing & Communication

George Jankowski

Board Secretary

Frank Leonard

Non-active Members

Alchin, Darren
Allard, Kevin
Almond, Neil
Apps, Bruce
Astill, David
Bailey, Gerard
Battin, Phil
Barnes, Barry
Beacroft, Michael
Belgre, John
Betts, Peter
Blomfield, John
Bonnie, Brian
Bowen, Pat
Bowron, David
Brown, Riley
Bugden, Luke
Bungate, Peter
Butler, Tony
Cafferelli, Mario
Cassidy, Michael
Castle Peter
Clapson, Steve
Cole, Arthur
Cook, Gary
Cranston, Rod
Cripps, Barry
Cross, Barry
Delauney, Tom
Digby, Peter
Dorahy, Phil
Duncan, Paul
Edney, Leon
Edwards, Merv
Elias, George
Fallah, Alan
Field, Paul
Fielder, Sean
Fielding, Rod
Fitton, Peter
Flint, Rob
Gocher, Darren
Grant, Brian
Grech, Bill
Haines, Gary
Harradine, Michael
Harrigan, Bill
Harrigan, Lance
Haynes, Cliff
Heaton, Grant
Hedger, Gordon
Henderson, Glyn
Hensley, Ross
Hewitt, Matt
Hewitt, Peter
Hoffman, Mitchell
Holman, Keith MBE
Holwell, Kim
Howell, Mick
Humphreys, Richie
Hunt, Bob
Jackson, Glenn
Jadwat, Mogsheen
Jay, David
Jeffes, Kelvin

Jones, Col
Keen, Doug
Keenahan, Barry
Kelly, Peter
Kelly, Tony
Kendall, Barrie
Kiddle, Rob
Laws, Steve
Lee, Gary
Lewis, Michael
Lewis, Rick
Loveday, Wayne
Lynch, Brett
Macinante, Paul
Maksoud, Tony
Mander, Tim
Manson, David
Manton, Ken
McBlane, Paul
McCallum, Greg
McCormack, John
McGilvray, Gus
McGuinness, Vince
McHatton, Brenton
McIntosh, Bob
McJannet, Ron
McLean, Des
McMahon, Phil
Melville, John
Meredith, Brett
Moon, Peter
Morris, Rowley
Murphy, Scott
Murray, Peter
Nash, Steve
Oaten, Mark
O'Brien, Jason
O'Donnell, Giles
O'Malley, Michael
Pearson, Bill
Peet, Tom
Penfold, Luke
Perry, Albert
Picard, Ross
Portsmouth, Scott
Presland, Merv
Reedy, Bert
Robinson, Jenny
Russell, Kevin
Ryan, Martin
Rye, Brad
Smith, Darryn
Smith, Owen
Sproule, Don
Stuart, Phil
Thompson, Michael
Todd, Scott
Toland, Glenn
Turner, Jack
Turner, Lin
Turvey, Dave
Wales, Baden
Ward, Eddie
Warner, Ray
Watkins, Peter
White, Col
Whybrow, John
Williams, Ross
Willis, Alan
Yates, Greg

Honour Board

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Abood, David
Adams, David
Archer, Tony
Atkins, Grant
Badger, Gavin
Berry, Danielle
Bowen, Robbie
Carrall, Steve
Cechin, Matthew
Chiddy, Steve
Clark, Steve
Cummins, Ben
Daizli, Richard
Damaso, Matt
De Las Heras, Tony
Devcich, Adam
Eastwood, Daniel

Elkins, Jason
Evans, Sean
Fajajo, Mohamad
Gee, Adam
Haines, Phillip
Hampstead, Sean
Hayne, Shayne
Henry, Angus
Higgins, Jason
Hill, Nathan
Holland, Paul
James, Chris
Jankowski, George
Jones, Michael
Kidd, Greg
Kirby, Peter
Lang, Darryn
Lawrence, Rod
Lyons, Steve
Maxwell, Jared
McFarlane, Ricky

Munroe, David
Neale, Adam
Potter, Luke
Reid, Adam
Reynolds, Gavin
Robinson, Jason
Scriberas, Peter
Sharpe, David
Shortall, Alan
Simpkins, Paul
Sutton, Bernard
Sutton, Chris
Sutton, Gerard
Suttor, Brett
Turner, Russell
Walsh, Jason
West, Gavin
Wood, Brendan
Yates, Melissa
Younis, Jeff
Zapantis, Andrew

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Terry Williams

