

# REF-A-READ



REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Volume 1

Number 7

August 2004

## FROM THE CEO'S DESK

BY STEVE BETTS (CEO - ARLRA)

Welcome to this edition of Ref-A-Read, the official newsletter of the ARLRA, our second for 2004.



The last Board meeting of the Association was conducted in Sydney at the NSW Leagues Club. At the meeting, a number of issues were discussed which have an impact on the world of referees at various levels.

The Referees' Hall of Fame project has been put on hold for the time being following discussions with the ARL. While that body is keen to recognize officials of the game in this manner, they have requested that we postpone its implementation until the existing, but new, "Players' Hall of Fame" has been in place for at least another year or so. In the interim, the committee formed to manage the Hall of Fame process has expressed their ongoing commitment to the project.

In a similar vein, our decision to prepare an interactive CD on the practical aspects of the Laws of the Game has been cancelled. Discussions with the ARL Foundation have revealed that the Foundation is in the early stages of preparing a similar education tool with a wider coverage and scope in its application. Under the circumstances, the Board has decided that the resources for this project could be better applied in other areas.

On a positive note, the Level 1 & 2 Coaching Match Officials courses have been reviewed by our consultants to ensure that the content continues to reflect current trends in the coaching of referees. Both courses are dynamic in their content and changes are always possible if they are necessary. The courses are eagerly anticipated by prospective coaches and remain popular; the QRL recently had 28 attendees at Level 2 courses. Speaking of Level 2 coaches, you can now purchase exclusive ARLRA Level 2 Coach polos. Details on how to purchase them are outlined elsewhere within this newsletter.

The Association is now closely liaising with the Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League (ASSRL), arranging for referees to officiate at all ASSRL interstate carnivals and international schoolboy fixtures in Australia. Recently we arranged for referees and a convener / coach to attend the U18 and U15 National Championships, in Sydney and Adelaide respectively.

Currently, we are also co-ordinating officials for games involving the visiting English and French touring sides. The highlight game of the international fixtures will be the upcoming game between the Australian Schoolboys v English Academy team to be held at St Marys (Sydney) on Saturday, 21 August.

The ARLRA has now produced a Uniform Code of Conduct for use by all Associations which will soon be available on our Website. Associations that do not have a specific Code of Conduct in place are urged to use this model in the future.

On behalf of the Board of the ARLRA, I would like to extend best wishes to those referees who are appointed to finals games and again thank all referees for your enormous contribution to the game this year, as always.

Regards,

**Steve Betts (Hon CEO)♣**

Please address all correspondence directed to the ARLRA to:

**Mr Steve Betts**  
**The Honorary Chief Executive Officer**  
**Australian Rugby League Referees' Association Inc.**  
**32 Parnell Avenue**  
**QUAKERS HILL NSW 2763**  
**e-mail: [steve@jgbs.com](mailto:steve@jgbs.com)**

### WEBSITE'S TEMPORARY DISAPPEARANCE

During July our website temporarily disappeared due to a technical hitch involving the transfer of responsibility for domain name registration and management in Australia. Unfortunately this transfer of responsibility coincided with the second anniversary of our website's registration and it "disappeared" in the process.

Our Internet Service Provider (ISP) assisted us greatly in overcoming the bureaucracy of resurrecting the domain name albeit with a fair bit of frustration from themselves, ourselves and the users of our site around Australia.

Fortunately we are up and running again with loads of information available to our members so take the time to peruse it and, in particular, catch up on all of Michael Stone's Memos to Coaches contained in "Coaches' Corner". All of his correspondences from day one of the Association are stored there for everyone to see and they contain very valuable advice and information for all referees and coaches of referees. ♣

## Australian Schoolboys' Under 18 Championships

The Deputy Chairman of the ARLRA, **Nick Best** and I attended the **Australian Secondary Schoolboys' Under 18's Years' Championships** played at St Marys from 12th July to 16th July, 2004.

The Championships were hosted by NSWICIS, whilst the NSWRLRA was responsible for inviting and appointing referees. Two members of the NSWRL Referees' Advisory Board, **Michael Lewis** and **Max Dunn**, did a superb job in selecting referees and advising them on ways to improve their refereeing. Max and Michael were available each day of the Championships and all the referees benefited from their expertise.

Besides NSWRLRA Development Squad Junior Representative referees, **Rob Bowen**, **Craig Diebert**, **Matt Hawkins**, **Angus Henry** and **Gavin West**, there were also two referees from the CRLRA Development Squads, **Chris Sutton** and **Nathan Bowden**, and one Queensland representative, **Justin Davis**. The ARLRA thanks the NSWRLRA for generously providing accommodation for the visiting Queensland referee. The performance of all the referees involved was of a high standard, and complemented the excellent football provided by the participating teams. Congratulations to **Matt Hawkins** on his excellent refereeing display in the Final between NSWCHS and QSS.

The facilities at St Marys were quite impressive and the St Marys R.L. Football Club is to be congratulated on the considerable work involved in hosting such a quality event.

The ARLRA has continued to develop a harmonious relationship with the ASSRL, and it is our intention to continue to involve as many referees from various states. This can only be possible by Development Funding being made available to the Australian Rugby League Referees' Association. Referees from the emerging states are then able to participate in Schoolboy Rugby League at the highest level. In this regard, The ARLRA CEO, **Steve Betts**, **Nick Best** and I met the ASSRL Executive and ARL Foundation representative, **Paul Walker**, on the second night of the Championships to discuss policy. In future, the ASSRL will deal directly with the ARLRA and the ARLRA will formulate policy in line with the Foundation concerning referee development in the emerging states and appointment of referees to all matches under the auspices of the ASSRL. Thus all international matches involving the Touring French, BARLA and English Academy sides in late July/early August, will be appointed through the ARLRA. The relevant Referees' Association will be contacted by **Steve Betts** and the appointment will be handled by that Association.

**Kevin Riolo**  
ARLRA Director ♣

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

BY NICK EUCLID OAM (Chairman ARLRA)

The ARLRA's "Coaching Match Officials" Course will soon achieve a significant milestone. At present we have registered 295 referee coaches around Australia of which 81 have successfully completed the Level 2 Course. This result is outstanding and it won't be long before we hit the 300 mark. All of this is due to the efforts of some remarkable people in our two consultants **Michael Stone** and **Richard Johnston** and their support staff of course co-developer and presenter, **David Jay**, and presenters **Barrie Keenahan** and recent addition to the presentation team **Mark Crampton**. Some fruits of the labour of these people have been seen recently in the outstanding performances of the young referees that have officiated in the National Schoolboys Under 18 and Under 15 Championships at St Mary's and Adelaide respectively as well as the Under 12 Primary Championships conducted in Melbourne. Undoubtedly the performances of these fine young referees have been enhanced by the active involvement of their coaches within their respective Associations all of whom have been graduates of the ARLRA "Coaching Match Officials" Course.

I sincerely thank the efforts of my Board in their focussed attention to the area of refereeing development and in particular for their support of the recent junior championships. It has not gone unnoticed by the games administrators that Board members **Tony Danks**, **Les Mathews**, **Nick Best** and **Kevin Riolo** as well as our CEO **Steve Betts** have played active roles in the support and real time development of our younger referees who participated in these prestigious events. **Michael Lewis** and **Max Dunn** are also to be congratulated for their roles at the Under 18 Championships for their usual highly professional support and management of the referees participating in the Under 18's event.

I sincerely thank board member **Kevin Riolo** for his valuable efforts in representing the ARLRA as referee manager at the events held in both Adelaide and Melbourne. I am sure that the young referees in attendance and in particular their parents were pleased that we had a person of Kevin's standing at these venues to look out for the well being of our young officials. From Kevin's feedback it is clear that they all represented the ARLRA, their state and district associations and their sport with distinction and have definitely benefited from the experience. Next year's championships will be held in Wagga Wagga, Rockhampton and Adelaide and once again the ARLRA will be actively involved.

In closing I wish all referees the best of fortunes in what is a very important part of the rugby league year, finals time. Just remember that we usually reap what we sow. For those who have put in the efforts during the season proper it is rare not to be rewarded accordingly. Good luck to all.

**Nick Euclid OAM ♣**

## Australian Schoolboys' Under 15 Championships

(By Kevin Riolo - Director ARLRA)



I was indeed fortunate to represent the ARLRA at the Australian Secondary Schools' Under 15's Rugby League Championships held in Adelaide from Sunday, 27th June to Friday 2nd July, 2004. All matches were played at Hindmarsh Stadium, a first class venue, originally built for soccer matches during the Olympic Games in 2000.

The South Australian Rugby League hosted the event, and their organization was outstanding, particularly their CEO, **Bob Hucker** and Development Officer, **James Johns**. The South Australian Referees' Association's hospitality was superb and their members also provided Touch Judges for several of the matches. The ARLRA, the visiting referees and I would like to particularly thank the S.A.R.A. President, **Rob Rath** and Secretary, Jacque Perks for providing transport, lunch and communications equipment for the week.

The organization of the Championships was indeed matched by the ability of the seven referees who represented their Associations so capably. **Gavin Reynolds**, **Brenton McHatton** (NSWRLRA), **Eddie Kimmerly**, **Chris Anderson** (QRB), **Ryan Jackson**, **Sean Keens** (NSWCRLRA) and **Michael Sims** (WARLRA) were all complimented by the ASSRL Executive on their displays. Although the accommodation for the visiting referees was half an hour's car ride from the venue, the referees developed a camaraderie which undoubtedly saw them work in unison when controlling games. Congratulations to **Brenton McHatton** on his performance in the Final where Queensland defeated NSWCHS in a great game.

After seeing the problems which exist in South Australia and discussing refereeing with **Rob Rath** I believe it is imperative that the ARLRA produce a comprehensive and meaningful Business Plan that is in line with the ARL Foundation's policies and addresses the problem of Referee Development in the Emerging States.

Kevin Riolo♣

### NEXT ARLRA BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting of the ARLRA will be held on **Saturday 20 November 2004** at the NSW Rugby League's Club, Sydney. Any affiliate Association who wishes to submit an agenda item to be discussed at that meeting should ensure that it is in the hands of the Honorary CEO, **Mr Steve Betts**, by no later than **31 October 2004**.

## CODE OF BEHAVIOUR Match Officials

At its last meeting the Board of the ARLRA voted on the adoption of a uniform Code of Conduct that will umbrella all of its affiliate refereeing associations. The Board is aware that the majority of its affiliates already have Codes of Conduct in place. It is also understood that these can be very different in their structure and can go from a broad policy statement to a very detailed set of rules and guidelines. The ARLRA Code of Behaviour is not meant to replace these where they exist but more so to reinforce them. All Associations should review any Codes that they have in place to ensure that they do not contradict the new ARLRA Code and any Associations that do not have a Code in place should immediately adopt the new ARLRA one and ensure that all of their members are fully aware of it.

The New Code of Behaviour will be placed on the ARLRA website and will take the following form:-

*"No referee shall:-*

- (a) engage in any conduct that is detrimental to;*
- (b) bring into disrepute;*
- (c) act in a manner inconsistent with;*
- (d) act in a manner contrary to; or*
- (e) act in a manner prejudicial to;*

*the best interests, image or welfare of the Game.*

*A referee is responsible for supervising a match and enforcing the Laws of the Game.*

*A referee is responsible for the inspection of the sports environment to ensure a safe environment is provided for participants.*

*Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive so be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.*

*Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors.*

*Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.*

*Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.*

*Accept responsibility for all actions taken.*

*Keep up to date with the latest trends in Officiating and the principles of growth and development of young people." ♣*

Check out the new Western Australian Rugby League Referees' Association at [www.warlra.org.au](http://www.warlra.org.au) - it's fantastic.

## LEVEL 2 REFEREES' COACH POLO SHIRTS

The Board of the ARLRA has negotiated a special deal with a clothing supplier to make available to its **Level 2 Coaches** a polo shirt that carries the ARLRA insignia as well as embroidering signifying their status as Level 2 Coaches. The shirts are off white pipeline polos.

The cost of these shirts will be \$30 each including postage and handling and can be secured by having your Association secretary send an order to the following address along with the required payment by no later than **Wednesday 15 September 2004:-**

**Mr Steve Betts**  
**The Honorary Chief Executive Officer**  
**Australian Rugby League Referees' Association Inc.**  
**32 Parnell Avenue**  
**QUAKERS HILL NSW 2763**

*Cheques should be made payable to the ARLRA.*

It is envisaged that each Association Secretary will consolidate the orders for their Association and send in one order covering all requirements for his/her Association. Upon receipt the CEO will place the purchase order on the supplier and the shirts will be mailed out to the Association for distribution.

Sizes range from S to XXXL and the required size should be clearly shown on the order. To obtain the correct size please use one of your shirts that is already a comfortable fit and lay it down on a flat surface. Next measure the distance of the flat garment from armpit to armpit and refer to the table below to obtain the correct size.

Size	Measure from Armpit to Armpit
S	53.0 cm
M	54.5 cm
L	56.5 cm
XL	60.5 cm
XXL	63.0 cm
XXXL	65.5 cm

The Association is also in the process of obtaining quotes for ARLRA ties and details of when and how these can be purchased will be notified at a later date.

## SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA RUGBY LEAGUE EXCHANGE

School Sport Australia has requested that the ARLRA provide referees for the Australian Under 12 Rugby League Carnival to be played in Melbourne from Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> August to Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2004. Since these referees would be billeted, it was suggested that we send Schoolboy referees, about 16 years of age, who had a thorough knowledge of Mod football rules and had shown outstanding potential within their own Associations.

The Queensland Referees' Association and the Country Rugby League Referees' Association agreed to send suitably qualified referees to Melbourne. **Peter Koplick** from Queensland, **Dale Whiteman** from Wollongong and **Haydn Scott** from the Central Coast joined Victorian referees, **Adam Baumgardner**, **Brent Silva**, **Cameron Tarau** and **Dean Caplin** in officiating over the six days of the Carnival.

The use of these young referees proved to be a marvellous idea, with all officials from School Sport Australia, ARL Development Officers, and **Bill Palmer** and **Steve Palin** from the ARL Foundation, commenting in glowing terms on the performance of all referees, and, in particular, the high refereeing standard of Peter, Dale and Haydn. Congratulations to **Brent Silva** from the Victorian Referees' Association on his appointment and outstanding display in the Final.

*Part of School Sport Australia's philosophy is to develop, not only young athletes, but also young officials in all sports. Therefore, School Sport Australia wishes the ARLRA to continue to support and send young schoolboy referees to the Under 12 Rugby league Championships in Adelaide next year and in future years wherever they are held.*

This is the first time that the ARLRA has been involved in sending young referees to this type of Rugby League Championship. All referees were given written reports and received positive criticisms on their games and they also received videos so that they could personally analyse their performances. My sincere thanks to VRLRA President, **Greg Mills**, for his assistance during the carnival. We feel that it is an integral part of referee development and it is desirable that we will be able to continue promoting young schoolboy referees who show ability, in the future.

**Kevin Riolo - Director**

## THE ARLRA REFEREES' HALL OF FAME

The Australian Rugby League has requested that we put on hold the formation of an ARLRA Referees' Hall of Fame because it is the ARL's desire to have a Hall of Fame with various sections, such as Players, Referees, Officials, Administrators, etc. As the ARL feels that it has not yet completely finalised all details of the Players' Hall of Fame, it does not want another section started yet. However, **Geoff Carr** has assured us that the ARLRA, under the auspices of the ARL, will have input into the Referees' section.

It is a pity that we could not begin the process, as several well-known Rugby League identities, such as **Michael Stone**, **Chris Turner**, **Terry Williams**, **David Middleton** and **Ian Heads**, had agreed to form a committee which would have chosen a College of voters.

Rest assured that the concept has not been abandoned. When we receive permission from the ARL, we will resurrect it.

**Kevin Riolo.**