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Curriculum Vitae

Robert Stephen Debney (B.Sc., QTS)

Personal Profile

An experienced sales professional accustomed to working within target based multi-functional teams, and with a successful track record of multi-national client acquisition, new product development and sales income achievement; daily in French and Italian.

A full-time Rugby referee used to performing calmly in front of large international audiences, using a range of languages; whilst managing and communicating clearly with professional athletes in a highly emotive and confrontational environment. Skilled and experienced at decision-making in extremely difficult circumstances.

A fully qualified teacher with experience of planning curricula and developing, organising and delivering successful academic programs. Proficient in the teaching and training of others in a goal orientated environment.

Rugby History

September 2013 – Present

Major League Rugby (USA) Lead evaluator for the MLR rugby referees

September 2014 – Present

Columnist for The Times newspaper

I write articles on refereeing decisions, Rugby Law and interpretations as well as contentious incidents in professional Rugby games.

September 2005 – July 2011

Rugby Football Union (RFU), Elite Rugby Department, Twickenham – Full-time Referee (as well as part time 1992-2005)

One of seven full-time officials, reporting to the Head of Elite Referee Development and responsible for:

- The officiating of Aviva Premiership matches, Heineken Cup matches and International Test matches as appointed.
- Development and maintenance of physical and mental fitness as required for the professional game.
- The weekly self-review and appraisal of each performance with the Elite Referee Management.
- Attend England and Club training camps and sessions as requested.
- Promote the positive image of officiating and assist in its development nationally and internationally; act as an ambassador of the Game.

Achievements

- Acted as a referee, assistant referee or Television Match Official in over 200 “Premiership” fixtures in England,
- Officiated in over 60 matches in the European Cups
- Over 50 full international matches (including refereeing 23 of them); including the Six Nations and Tri Nations and iRB World Sevens Series.
- I refereed 25 ‘A’ International and the Barbarians twice
- I refereed the semi-final of the Commonwealth Games 7s in Melbourne, Australia in 2006
- In 2003 I refereed the U21 Rugby World Cup final
- Referee Adviser to the England Team during the team’s preparation for the Autumn Internationals, 2008.
- I have acted as a referee consultant for a number of professional clubs in England and other European countries.

Qualifications

2002-2003 Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)
Graduate Training Programme

Oadby Beauchamp Sports College, Leicester
1992-1995 Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) Joint Honours
Chemistry and Physical Education and Sport Science Loughborough
University, Loughborough

Other Activities

Travel and Culture
Ironman triathlons
Fluent in French, conversational Italian and Spanish and 'tourist' Russian.
Cooking and wine
Restoration/renovation
Science and the environment

References

International references are available upon request