



## **RBS 6 Nations match officials profiles**

**(as of 2 February 2012)**

### **Wayne Barnes**

Born: 20 April 1979

Home town: Bream, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, England

International Debut: Fiji v Samoa, Suva, 2006

RBS 6 Nations Debut: Italy v France, Rome, 2007

International Appearances: 36

Refereeing Highlights: "My 6 Nations debut, my first Varsity match (Oxford University v Cambridge University) in 2006, the quarter-final of the Rugby World Cup 2007 and my first Premiership final in 2008."

Favourite Rugby Memory: "My time on the IRB Sevens Series circuit with a great group of officials. They became great friends (and not bad referees, either!)."

When not reffing...: "I practice as a barrister at Fulcrum Chambers. When not working I like to spend time at home with my family and friends."

### **George John Clancy**

Born: 12 January 1977

Home town: Limerick, Ireland

International Debut: Uruguay v USA, Montevideo, 2006

RBS 6 Nations Debut: France v Scotland, Paris, 2009

International Appearances: 20

Refereeing Highlights: Opening game of the Rugby World Cup 2011 between New Zealand and Tonga. Also, England v France in the RBS 6 Nations 2011

Favourite Rugby Memory: Ireland winning the RBS 6 Nations Grand Slam in 2009

When not reffing...: "I enjoy watching Ireland's national sport of hurling."

### **Jerome Garces**

Born: 24 October 1973

Home town: Aste-Beon, France

International Debut: Romania v Fiji, Bucharest, 2009

RBS 6 Nations Debut: Not yet (Italy v England in Rome on 11 February will be his first)

International Appearances: 6

Refereeing Highlights: I have many highlights, including the IRB Junior World Championships in Belfast (2007) and Japan (2009), Churchill Cup 2010 in Denver, Wales v Fiji 2010 in Cardiff, IRB Nations Cup 2011 in Bucharest, Romania, and being appointed assistant referee for the Rugby World Cup 2011 in New Zealand.

Favourite Rugby Memory: RWC 2011 in New Zealand.

When not reffing...: "I like to walk in the mountains and to play golf but I spend a lot of time with my family and supporting my kids' rugby teams."

### **Craig Paul Joubert**

Born: 8 November 1977

Home town: Kloof, South Africa

International Debut: Namibia v Uganda, 2003

RBS 6 Nations Debut: France v Scotland, Paris, 2007

International Appearances: 31

Refereeing Highlights: Rugby World Cup 2011 final

Favourite Rugby Memory: When the Springboks won the Rugby World Cup in 1995

When not reffing...: "I like to spend time with family and also play the odd game of golf."

### **Nigel Owens**

Born: 18 June 1971

Home town: Mynyddcerrig, Wales

International Debut: Portugal v Georgia, 2003

RBS 6 Nations Debut: England v Italy, London, 2007

International Appearances: 35

Refereeing Highlights: Rugby World Cup 2011 is the most recent highlight in my career but I've also reffed two Heineken Cup finals (2008 and 2009), South Africa v New Zealand in Soccer City, Soweto; the all-Irish semi-final of the Heineken Cup between Leinster and Munster in front of a world record attendance for a club game in Croke Park; the IRB Sevens Series for three seasons, including seven finals. Also, I have always enjoyed reffing in charity matches as it's great to be able to put something back into a sport from which I have taken so much.

Favourite Rugby Memory: Scoring my first and only ever try – for my school when I was 11 years old. Also, knowing my parents were watching me as I reffed my first RBS 6 Nations match. My father was there at Twickenham but my mum watched at my cousin's home near London. She had never been to watch me live and she died not long after but she watched every game I reffed during the time she was ill at home. All these memories I will cherish forever.

When not reffing...: "I do some TV work in Wales as a presenter for a sports-themed chat show with Jonathan Davies and Sarra Elgan but I like to switch away from rugby when I'm not reffing. I work as a stand-up comedian and I do a bit of singing as part of my act. To relax I spend time with family and friends and I love walking my two German Shepherds, Tara and Mali."

### **David John Pearson**

Born: 9 August 1966

Home town: Morpeth, Northumberland, England

International Debut: Czech Republic v Romania, 2004

RBS 6 Nations Debut: Ireland v Italy, Dublin, 2006

International Appearances: 25

Refereeing Highlights: Every Test match I referee is a highlight but, in particular, Rugby World Cup 2011 was special."

Favourite Rugby Memory: "Winning the 1985 Northumberland Colts Cup with Seghill RFC. It was the only trophy I ever won playing rugby."

When not reffing...: "Cooking, playing golf and watching other sports."

### **Romain Poite**

Born: 14 September 1975

Home town: Gratens, France  
International Debut: Morocco v Namibia, Casablanca, 2007  
RBS 6 Nations Debut: Ireland v Italy, Dublin, 2010  
International Appearances: 20  
Refereeing Highlights: Munster v New Zealand, Limerick, 2008, Heineken Cup final 2010 and the Rugby World Cup 2011 in New Zealand  
Favourite Rugby Memory: Heineken Cup Final 2011 between Leinster and Northampton in Cardiff  
When not reffing...: "I like to share time and look after my wife and two daughters."

### **Chris Pollock**

Born: 9 November 1972  
Home town: Napier, New Zealand  
International Debut: Niue v Tahiti, 2005  
RBS 6 Nations Debut: Not yet (Ireland v Scotland in Dublin on 10 March will be his first)  
International Appearances: 8  
Refereeing Highlights: Air New Zealand Cup final 2007, Tri-Nations debut 2011, assistant referee for Rugby World Cup 2011  
Favourite Rugby Memory: "Having the opportunity to visit all the amazing places I have been to and the people I have met through rugby."  
When not reffing...: Surfing, multisport events and golf

### **Alain Colm Pierre Rolland**

Born: 22 August 1966  
Home town: Dublin, Ireland  
International Debut: Wales v Romania, 2001  
RBS 6 Nations Debut: Scotland v France, 2002  
International Appearances (before start of RBS 6 Nations 2012): 55  
Refereeing highlight: Rugby World Cup 2007 final in Paris  
Favourite Rugby Memory: First cap as a player for Ireland in 1990  
When not reffing...: "With a family of four kids and a full-time job at Cornmarket GFS, there isn't much time for hobbies but I enjoy scuba diving while on holiday."

### **Steve Reid Walsh**

Born: 28 March 1972  
Home town: Sydney, Australia  
International Debut: Argentina v France, Buenos Aires, 1998  
RBS 6 Nations Debut: England v Ireland, London, 2000  
International Appearances: 44  
Refereeing Highlights: 1997 Super 14 final between the Sharks and the Bulls in Durban  
Favourite Rugby Memory: "Getting to meet Katherine Jenkins in Cardiff when she sang the national anthem before an international."  
When not reffing...: "I enjoy spending time at the beach or having coffee with friends."