

Hudson chosen by RFU for schools 'world cup'

MIKE Hudson said he was surprised and honoured to be chosen by the RFU to officiate at the World Youth Rugby Championship in Japan which starts next month.

The 36-year-old English teacher at Claires Court School, and a former player at Maidenhead RFC and Phoenix RFC, is a senior referee, but did not expect to be called up.

"It came as a shock," he said. "I know some

Rugby

refs who have gone previously and I hear it's an excellent tournament.

"There's an opening ceremony and a village where all the officials and players stay.

"It's 16 teams from around the world and it's a high standard.

"I'm expecting it to be quite hot out there, so have been working on my fitness."



MAN IN THE MIDDLE:
Mike Hudson.

He added: "The RFU see it as a good way of developing referees.

"I am part of a professional group of referees

which make up the top 20 in the England.

"I've been to Leinster and to Scotland, but this will be my first time on a long trip. I fly out on Tuesday and the tournament lasts a week."

Hudson, originally from Maidenhead but who now lives in Staines, is in his sixth year as a referee, and officiates at all levels up to and including the Championship, which is the second tier of profes-

sional rugby in England.

In addition to having been a player, Hudson has also coached, especially at Claires Court.

He was keen to thank the school and academic principal James Wilding for allowing him to take part in the tournament during term time.

Henley College (Wasps academy) will represent England in the competition which is effectively a world cup for schools under-18s teams.