

HAMPSHIRE RUGBY UNION REFEREES' SOCIETY



(Chairman – Simon Thomas)
Member of the Southern Federation of Referees' Societies

www.hantsrefs.org.uk

“BETTER OFFICIALS, BETTER GAME...”

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63rd HRURS Annual General Meeting 18th May 2009 Appointments Secretary Report

This season was a tough introduction to the role and the task of appointments secretary is not made easy by the lack of timely or accurate information, a problem that I had not anticipated before the start of the season.

In theory we have ~110 Active referees in HRURS, at best I only ever received availability information for 53% (58) of the referees and often this was partial or with regard to specific weekends. Availability info does not mean they were available to appoint! Additionally, like my predecessors, many referees and teams assumed that I had a crystal ball, was psychic or generally superhuman with regard to changes in availability or fixtures. Many weeks I had knowledge of less than 30 referees being available for appointments. As the season started I had notices of over 3,600 games, in truth we appointed to 180 Games per month through the season (weekends) and sheer maths indicates that on many occasions there were gaps with insufficient numbers declaring availability. The actual games that took place were less.

The levels of teams within Hampshire also posed many problems in the efforts to appoint referees to matches at the Grading Levels they enjoyed or required to develop themselves. I always tried to ensure that at least 1 match per month was at the appointed grade even if this did not always occur. I foresee a continuation, if not worsening, of this issue and would urge all referee to obtain their CRB clearance and make themselves available for Colts and Junior games, these will often be the best rugby available at a weekend.

The efforts of Paul Hobby (mid-week appointments) and Dave Davies can not be over stated as they worked with even less firm data and information than I had.

This was my first season as Appointments Secretary and it unfortunately coincided with me assuming two other time consuming roles (GADO for SWG and joining the RFU PNR as a Match Observer) not to mention work, all of which ultimately left me feeling that none of the jobs taken on were fulfilled to the best of my abilities or intentions. Therefore to rescue my sanity and in realisation that I am not superhuman I asked Simon if he could find someone to replace me and make sure the Hampshire role was given the focus it deserves.

Thank you to all who worked with me and tried to make the job easy.

Keith Page, Appointments Secretary, HRURS May 2009.