

HAMPSHIRE RUGBY UNION REFEREES SOCIETY

SEASON 2008/2009

TREASURER'S REPORT

AGM 18th MAY 2009

1. OVERVIEW

Accounts for our eighth year are to be prepared for the full year to 30 June 2009, by which time all the expenses relating to the 2008/2009 season will hopefully be known and thus included in the accounts. However, the final accounts for the year to 30 June 2008 are attached to this report. I have not yet prepared any interim accounts for 2008-09. The accounts show that, as anticipated, a deficit arose in 2007/08.

This was due partly to the decision to hold the match fees charged to the clubs at a similar level to the previous year, and partly to a deliberate increase in spending on kit and equipment, despite the lack of sponsorship funding. I expect a deficit to arise in 2008/09, but bearing in mind the surpluses in earlier years, this should not cause a problem.

2. SPONSORSHIP

We are obviously concerned that, at the present time, we have no sponsorship deal. The current economic climate is obviously making it more difficult to find sponsorship, and the help of all members is needed to talk to any potential sponsors, as this funding is very important to our ability to develop referees to achieve their full potential.

3. CLUB CHARGES

The charges we make to the Clubs form the main source of income to the Society. These charges were raised by £4 to £26 (Senior games) and £19 (Junior) for season 2008/2009. There are still a few members who do not claim travelling expenses, and it is true that, as a consequence of this, the Society has had a surplus of funds from the Clubs in the past. HOWEVER, we are all aware of how much the price of petrol has increased, and it remains my belief that The Society should not rely on the goodwill of some members for the stability of its finances. This means that the charges to Clubs should be sufficient to cover the travelling expenses of all referees. I have prepared a budget for next season which includes an increase in the match charges to the Clubs to £27 for senior games and £22 for junior games, which represents a proportionally larger increase for junior games to narrow the gap between senior and junior charges. We are refereeing more junior games and fewer senior games, and of course travel costs are the same!

4. MILEAGE RATE AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

The current rate is 35p per mile and as I have said earlier, if all referees claimed all their expenses there would be a need for a bigger increase in the charge to Clubs. We were forced to reduce the rate in February from 40p to 35p to reduce the anticipated deficit for 2008/09. We have always said that we would like to stay in line with the RFU rate (40p), but in the current climate, I believe that this is not possible or desirable. Consequently, I have recommended to The Committee that the mileage rate for next season remains at 35p, which The Committee has agreed, subject to Members' approval.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for Season 2009/2010 will remain at £20 (senior) and £5 (Associates).

RICHARD SHOWAN (TREASURER)