

Appointments Secretary report for 2007 –2008 season.

As many of you may know I am stepping down from doing the referee appointments for the society. The reasons are purely personal, it is going to be difficult with my Daughter and myself doing college so study time is going to be at a premium, so I have decided to hand the reigns over to somebody new. I would like to thank all the referees and clubs who have aided me by providing me with up to date availability and changes to fixtures in a timely manner.

I hope my time on the committee as Appointments Secretary will be remembered for changes to the grading system. By having a bi annual grading meeting we have been able to elevate the high flyers to more suitable grades quickly. On occasions we have also elevated others as required. This is a major change; I can remember just missing out on an upgrade many years ago and having to wait a whole year before being reconsidered. I have attended my last grading meeting and once again a number of referees have been moved up. Some are now slipping down the greasy pole due to increases in age, waistlines and shortsightedness (or lack of club cards with tongue firmly in cheek). I hope those that are downgraded take it in their stride and look upon the move as giving opportunities to others on the up. Just think you will be able to say “when I was at that level” with some authority. In no cases were referees dropped more than 1 level and so will still be able to do the games that were allocated this season. This year level 8 and 9 referees should benefit from the promotions and demotions of various clubs. Andover’s relegation, Trojan promotion will make 4 clubs at level 8 in London South West 4. The down side is, at a higher level, we will no longer allocate to Jersey. Basingstoke’s relegation means we will appoint to them at level 6.

I am hoping to still be on the committee in another role and if elected will assist the new appointments secretary as required. If that doesn’t occur then I wish to thank my fellow committee members for their good humour and support over the past few years. In particular I would like to give a special thanks to Dave Davies for clearing up my mistakes and tipping me off to the many changes that occur almost on a daily basis. I look forward to the new season and being put out to pastures new.

Rgds

Geoff Paice