

HSRA AGM – Refereeing and Marking Report

1) Review of last year

Last year was marred by two incidents that had to be looked at by a virtual sub-committee acting on behalf of the main committee. The sub-committee made recommendations which included warnings to players and clubs and also a temporary ban for a player. These are the first incidents we have had for a while but it is a shame that Hampshire League Squash matches end up with any such incidents.

There is some concern at Committee Level that, anecdotally, conduct and behaviour on court appears to be deteriorating and it is important that referees and markers take appropriate action against early displays of conduct violations to try to make sure that matters do not get out of hand. The website includes a guidance document on Conduct that all clubs should encourage their players to look at before the season starts -

<http://www.hampshiresquash.co.uk/hsralgconduct.pdf>

In terms of courses last year although a number of clubs expressed interest in holding a hybrid course it was not possible to actually arrange a course. This was also disappointing and I have arranged 2 dates at the start of the new season and am looking for clubs to volunteer to host the courses (see below). I would like to congratulate Stan Thornton from Trojans who is now a Tournament qualified referee.

2) Dates for next year

As stated above it was not possible to arrange any marking courses last year. Although England Squash no longer support the hybrid course this has been a popular course in the past since it combines both theory and practice in a 2 hour course. I have arranged with Mark Dilloway to run 2 courses for us in the first half of the season and would like 2 clubs to volunteer to host the courses. **The dates are the afternoons of 11th Sept and 6th November. If any clubs would like to host one of these courses** (and can provide at least 8 guaranteed participants; a free court for an hour; a balcony or equivalent; somewhere for the theory part of the course and a person to go on court with the tutor - HSRA will pay the tutor costs) **please contact Paddy May (contact details below).**

3) Full courses

England Squash have confirmed that the provisional qualification only remains valid for a year and should be seen as a stepping stone to getting the County qualification. This means that anyone who has taken the exam and who did not get assessed as a County grade referee, no longer has any refereeing or marking qualification. England Squash would be prepared to run their new longer courses in Hampshire if enough people wished to get the provisional qualification as a stepping stone to getting the County qualification. We would need to provide a suitable number of people willing to do the course (and the assessments) and a venue. I would be grateful if people could speak to their players and club members to see whether there would be demand for such a course in Hampshire and then to let me know the outcome of these discussions.

4) Contact Details

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this report or you would like to volunteer your club to hold one of the marking courses please contact Paddy May – 01730 265715 or themays@ntlworld.com .