

HAMPSHIRE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT

Season 2007 - 2008

I

The highlight of an eventful season was without any doubt the victory in the Final of the RFU County Championship Plate over a strong Leicestershire side.

There have been lows as well but the positives have come out on top.

The Forge Garage went out of business at the end of November. We then discovered that the proprietor had given us a new sub-lease only four months earlier without the written authority of the landlord; this apparently made our lease null and void. Quite frankly it wasn't worth arguing over; we lost money in re-decorating before the lease was renewed but factors were very much on the side of cutting our losses and moving on.

Fortunately within days a suitable replacement had been identified and we eventually moved to the other side of Wickham at the beginning of February. The removal men being the retired fraternity of Past Presidents and Management Committee with the added value of a not-yet-retired Dave Tilling and his trusty Transit and the muscles of the young RDO's. Doubtless had time been on our side an even better set-up might well have been identified somewhere else in the County. I spent a lot of time surfing the web for office space – and was dismayed at the potential costs of the sort of space we needed. I could have driven more miles than I actually did in looking at more places but I doubt if anything better for the price would have been located.

The new office in Buddens Yard can accommodate our largest Committee meeting; it cannot however accommodate a Clubs' Meeting where previously we could fit in up to thirty people. However the decision had already been made to change from holding the Clubs' Meetings in Wickham. We had been considering moving the location around the County and having the Meetings in our Clubs in the hope that variety and availability of liquid refreshment might just improve attendances. Indeed that worked as the February meeting was the best attended for five years – no doubt the free samples of Fullers' beers on offer played a factor in this as well.

As the search for a new office progressed a further set-back occurred when Clive Lamshead decided that perhaps his health was more important than working so decided to call it a day and hang-up his computer keyboard. Clive was with us for three years and sorted out not only the disciplinary procedures but also the massive youth registration task. Just as that had moved to the Clubs managing their own registration on-line so Clive's health was threatened. I am sure we all wish him well – and I thank him for seeing out the season as our volunteer Disciplinary Sec.

It has taken some time to even start the search for Clive's successor but as this is written interviews have just been held and a new part-time Administrative Officer should shortly be appointed.

Congratulations to Jersey! An administrative error cost them top-spot in London Two South and they had to win the play-off against the London Two North runners-up Staines to gain their promotion to London One for the first time. They go up as regrettably Basingstoke go down from London One. And well done to Ellingham & Ringwood for reaching the Divisional leagues for the first time. And completing the double by winning the County Bowl as well as Hampshire One.

Another success was the Gala Dinner organised last November at the Rose Bowl by Cliff Fairley of the Hampshire Branch of the Wooden Spoon Society. We incorporated the Annual Club Awards in this function, which raised £2000 for charity, as well as being a cracking night out.

It is my sad duty to record the deaths of Associates Ian Mead, a Portsmouth stalwart and a County player in 1953, Roger Hollis another Portsmouth stalwart and one-time Hon Sec and Chris Holt, long time Trojans Fixture Sec. Also of Mrs Janet Penn-Barrow, a Life Associate and former wife of the late Gerald. And of player Pierre Durant of Havant who died while on a visit to his home in South Africa.

Finance

The financial year is just ending as I write this Report. A provisional picture will be available at the AGM and the accounts will be presented to the Voting Membership at the Annual Financial General Meeting on 17th November. Indications are a surplus for the seventh year running.

To reverse that trend, changes are being made to the level of club charges for next season – as advised to the Clubs at the Meeting held on 12 May. Member Clubs (ie those with a vote) will in future pay just one rate of £50 and not a rate based on league level. Non-voting Associate Clubs will pay £35 and Associate Schools (we still have 9) will pay £25. Member Clubs will continue to pay an additional £40 for each of their adult male or female teams. That has not changed since its introduction in 1998 (I think it was). Entry fees will continue to be levied for all Merit Tables, all Knock-Out Competitions, and junior rugby leagues.

The Youth Levy, based on the number of registered youth players at the end of each season, has been abolished as has the Youth Development Grant scheme (which basically was a continuation of the old Wavell Wakefield Grants without any income from the RFU). Youth Chairmen have been advised of this by letter.

By reducing some of the income we have previously take from clubs we may achieve a reverse-refund of some of the surplus which has accumulated over the last seven years to those who have contributed to it. However preliminary budget calculations for next year - what with ever-rising costs and the diminishing likelihood of gaining more sponsorship in the present economic climate - indicate we must continue our search for alternative funding sources. It is no longer possible to run this Union solely on volunteers. While the 100 or so Committee and Sub-Committee people, Team Managers and Coaches provide their services for nothing, most do not even claim expenses, there are certain roles which require us to financially recompense the post holders for their time. Currently we pay the Executive Director and the Administrative Officer, the teams' physios and the coaches and managers who staff the three Potential Elite Player Centres. The Management Committee recognise that this is likely to extend to recruiting a paid Director of Rugby and Disciplinary Secretary both being tasks which can require an enormous amount of time and energy. Making sure therefore that our income is sufficient to enable us to do what we want to do remains a major task.

Associates are reminded that the notice (on green paper) for applying for Twickenham international tickets is enclosed. You will see that prices have again been increased and that the top seat is now £85 for all three Six Nations matches and for three of the four Autumn Internationals. Knowing how many tickets are for sale at each of the five prices I can tell you that next year a sell out will bring in £5.3m! Be aware that the lowest priced ticket in these matches is available for only 4,202 seats. (The typo for the kick-off on 22 Nov against SA is a missing 1; it should read 1430.)

Club members in some of our Clubs are clearly not in the least concerned about the manner in which their club money is managed. There are still two Clubs who have not submitted their accounts for the season 06/07 (that's the season before the one just ended!) - namely New Milton & District and Southampton - and there are two Clubs which have not paid the fine levied on them for failing to meet the requirements of the RFU – namely Southampton (again) and Alton.

Discipline

The first half of the season was relatively quiet; sendings-off were quite a lot down on 2006 but then it all went pear-shaped and we ended up dealing with more cases than we have had for thirteen seasons. As well as 48 sendings-off we had two citings, three cases of Match Official Abuse (all after the final whistle) plus one child protection case referred by the RFU to our Disciplinary Sub-Committee. Youth and School cases however were half of last season.

Analysis of these cases shows 38% were in RFU League matches, followed by 34% in non-RFU League or Merit Table matches. Surprisingly centre was the position most likely to offend, and be caught, while not surprisingly, 54% of sendings-off happened in the final quarter. As ever it was punching, or striking (and the relevant law includes head-butting) which created 60% of offences. Once again most cases were dealt with without the need to hold a County Disciplinary Hearing as those sent-off generally put their hands up and accepted the ref's report. Without doubt that has been one huge benefit of the changes made to rugby's disciplinary procedures over the past few years.

Back in the good old days everyone sent-off had an automatic ban of 30 days. And then often, some more. Nowadays around 60% of the penalties awarded, in line with the RFU recommended sanctions I hasten to add, are for three weeks or less; although this year we have had two players given a year's ban, both for Match Official Abuse.

Anyone who might like to further analyse the statistics is more than welcome to call in at the Office and have a look at the spreadsheet.

For the fifteenth season in succession our Disciplinary procedures have been chaired by Mick Chalk - an outstanding achievement. He has been ably assisted again by Les White and Nigel Morgan and Clive Lamshead whose time as Disciplinary Sec has now concluded. Thanks to our Channel Islands Disciplinarians, John Moxon on Guernsey and Cliff Chipperfield on Jersey as well.

At the time of writing, because of holidays there is still one case to be dealt with and there are five others which require closure. SOS means that the Sending-Off was considered Sufficient and no other penalty was imposed (apart from the standard fine of £25). One case was found to be not guilty. A further two cases, not reported to the County, were dealt with by an RFU Panel.

| | | | Penalty in Days | Law Offended |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Alresford | Cain | Price | 21 | 10.4.a |
| Alresford | Martin | Strong | 21 | 10.4.a |
| Alresford | Glen | Walsh | 21 | 10.4.a |
| Andover | Matthew | Nolan | 7 | 10.4.a |
| Basingstoke | Nicholas | Cooper | SOS | 10.4.b |
| Basingstoke | Glenike | Hawea | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Basingstoke | Robbie | Holmes | 126 | 5.12 |
| Eastleigh | Mark | Day | 364 | 5.12 |
| Farnborough | Christoph | Blandin | 56 | 10.4.a |
| Farnborough | Gary | Gough | 14 | 10.4.c |
| Farnborough | Anamani | Naea | 14 | 10.4.e |
| Farnborough | Anamani | Naea | 364 | 5.12 |
| Fawley | Ryan | Phelps | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Fawley | Craig | Thomas | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Gosport & Fareham | Louis | Bristow | 21 | 10.4.k |
| Guernsey | Carl | Gardner | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Guernsey | James | Regnard | 28 | 10.4.e |
| Havant | Alexander | Lamont | 21 | 10.4.a |
| Havant | Ryan | Myall | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Kingsclere | Andrew | Vaughan | 14 | 10.4.a |
| New Milton & District | Nat | Corder | 7 | 10.4.a |
| New Milton & District | Will | Cork | 21 | 10.4.a |
| New Milton & District | Gary | Brooks | 28 | 10.4.a |
| Nomads | Christopher | Sweatman | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Petersfield | Tom | Dear | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Petersfield | Matt | Higson | 14 | 10.4.c |
| Portsmouth | Paul | Connor | SOS | 10.3 |
| Portsmouth | Jon Joe | Ford | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Portsmouth | Charlie | Stickley | 14 | 10.4.c |
| Portsmouth University | Darran | O'Donovan | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Romsey | Pierre | Rawlings-Duquemin | 21 | 10.4.b |
| Southampton | Mike | Braithwaite | 21 | 10.4.b |
| Southampton | Daryl | Bray | 21 | 10.4.a |
| Southampton | Pete | O'Donnell | 56 | 10.4.a |
| Southampton University | Oliver | West | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Tottonians | Darren | McLaughlin | 14 | 10.4.e |
| Tottonians | Matthew | Sheen | SOS | 10.4.a |
| Tottonians | Tomas | Young | 28 | 10.4.b |
| Trojans | James | Adams | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Trojans | Gary | Fitzgerald | 14 | 10.3 |
| Trojans | Jack | Martin | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Ventnor | Gary | Freeston | 21 | 10.4.k |
| Ventnor | Nigel | Malkin | 21 | 10.4.k |
| Ventnor | Dave | Martin | 14 | 10.4.a |
| Ventnor | Mike | Walker | 28 | 10.4.e |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----|---|----|---------------------|
| | Paxton Pumas | 16 | - | 14 | Ventnor |
| | Romsey | 15 | - | 41 | Southampton Medics |
| Quarter-Finals | Eastleigh | 15 | - | 0 | Fareham Heathens |
| | Farnborough | 16 | - | 12 | Fordingbridge |
| | Paxton Pumas | 18 | - | 16 | Isle of Wight |
| | Southampton Medics | 18 | - | 29 | Jersey United Banks |
| Semi-Finals | Jersey United Banks | 18 | - | 20 | Eastleigh |
| | Paxton Pumas | 11 | - | 12 | Farnborough |
| FINAL | Eastleigh | 15 | - | 8 | Farnborough |

THE JOHN SNEEZUM VETERANS' CUP

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----|---|-----|------------------|
| Round One | Fawley | w/o | - | w/d | Andover |
| | Fareham Heathens | 17 | - | 10 | Southampton |
| | Gosport & Fareham | 8 | - | 14 | Petersfield |
| | Portsmouth | 19 | - | 13 | Havant |
| Quarter-Finals | Basingstoke | 3 | - | 24 | Portsmouth |
| | Fareham Heathens | 20 | - | 7 | Fawley |
| | United Services | w/d | - | w/o | Farnborough |
| | Winchester | 0 | - | 60 | Petersfield |
| Semi-Finals | Farnborough | 7 | - | 12 | Portsmouth |
| | Petersfield | 57 | - | 0 | Fareham Heathens |
| Final | Petersfield | 26 | - | 10 | Portsmouth |

RFU EDF ENERGY NATIONAL TROPHY

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|-----|---|-----|------------|
| Round One | Ealing | w/o | - | w/d | Andover |
| | Havant | 27 | - | 10 | Chippenham |
| Round Two | Havant | 34 | - | 10 | Clifron |
| Round Three | Havant | 11 | - | 18 | Nuneaton |

RFU EDF ENERGY INTERMEDIATE CUP

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----|---|----|-------------|
| Round One | No Hampshire Clubs in Round One | | | | |
| Round Two | Portsmouth | 10 | - | 34 | Staines |
| | Welwyn | 0 | - | 52 | Basingstoke |
| Round Three | Basingstoke | 37 | - | 8 | Dorking |
| Round Four | Basingstoke | 14 | - | 13 | Clevedon |
| Round Five | Chester | 56 | - | 5 | Basingstoke |

RFU EDF ENERGY SENIOR VASE

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----|---|----|----------------|
| Round One | Camberley | 26 | - | 31 | Tottonians |
| | Gosport & Fareham | 34 | - | 15 | Bognor |
| | Petersfield | 7 | - | 24 | Hove |
| Round Two | Gosport & Fareham | 26 | - | 31 | Tottonians |
| | Trojans | 24 | - | 25 | London Cornish |
| | Weybridge | 17 | - | 22 | Winchester |
| Round Three | Eastbourne | 26 | - | 27 | Winchester |
| | Warlingham | 17 | - | 29 | Tottonians |
| Round Four | Dover | 31 | - | 18 | Winchester |
| | Tottonians | 49 | - | 8 | Old Reigatian |

Round Five Tottonians 19 - 25 Rochford Hundred

RFU EDF ENERGY JUNIOR VASE

Round One

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---|-----|-------------|
| London Fire Brigade | w/o | - | w/d | Alresford |
| Old Cranleighans | w/o | - | w/d | Kingsclere |
| Overton | 24 | - | 22 | Economicals |
| Reigate | 76 | - | 22 | Fawley |
| Streatham-Croydon | w/o | - | w/d | Stoneham |

Round Two

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|---|--------|-----------|
| Barns Green | 0 | - | 14 | Romsey |
| Chineham | w/d | - | w/o | Millbrook |
| Eastleigh | 81 | - | 0 | Reigate |
| Holbrook | 12 | - | 13 | Ventnor |
| Isle of Wight | | | 37 - 5 | Overton |
| Nomads | 56 | - | 12 | Nomads |

Round Three

| | | | | |
|------------------|----|---|----|-----------------------|
| Burgess Hill | 54 | - | 10 | Nomads |
| Cranleigh | 27 | - | 20 | New Milton & District |
| Crawley | 30 | - | 17 | United Services |
| East Dorset | 20 | - | 13 | Romsey |
| Fareham Heathens | 0 | - | 40 | Eastleigh |
| Farnborough | 0 | - | 28 | Old Freemans |
| Fordingbridge | 17 | - | 13 | Old Amplefordians |
| Isle of Wight | 8 | - | 7 | Pulborough |
| Millbrook | 21 | - | 23 | Sandown & Shanklin |
| Old Rutlishians | 30 | - | 31 | Alton |
| Ventnor | 0 | - | 60 | Ellingham & Ringwood |

Round Four

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----|---|----|----------------|
| Burgess Hill | 32 | - | 5 | Isle of Wight |
| Eastleigh | 15 | - | 0 | Cranleigh |
| Ellingham & Ringwood | 13 | - | 20 | Alton |
| Fordingbridge | 11 | - | 34 | Crawley |
| Sandown & Shanklin | 25 | - | 10 | East Grinstead |

Round Five

| | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|--------------------|
| Alton (Alton were later disqualified) | 22 | - | 13 | Crawley |
| Burgess Hill | 5 | - | 22 | Eastleigh |
| East Dorset | 5 | - | 8 | Sandown & Shanklin |

Round Six

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|---|----|--------------------|
| Eastleigh | 7 | - | 18 | Chiswick |
| Wymondham | 13 | - | 14 | Sandown & Shanklin |

Round Seven

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|---|---|--------------------|
| Southmead | 18 | - | 0 | Sandown & Shanklin |
|-----------|----|---|---|--------------------|

LEAGUES

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Points | |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|------------------------|
| National 3 South | | | | | | | | |
| Havant | 26 | 8 | 0 | 18 | 394 | 567 | 41 | Tenth |
| London 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Portsmouth | 22 | 11 | 0 | 10 | 513 | 467 | 23 | Sixth |
| Basingstoke | 22 | 4 | 0 | 18 | 297 | 687 | 8 | Eleventh (& relegated) |
| London 2 South | | | | | | | | |
| Jersey | 22 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 708 | 257 | 39* | Second |

Jersey won the play-off against London 2 North Runners-Up Staines 15 points to nil and are promoted to London 1.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|----|------------------------|
| London 3 South-West | | | | | | | | |
| Tottonians | 22 | 15 | 1 | 6 | 525 | 390 | 31 | Third |
| Guernsey | 22 | 13 | 1 | 8 | 505 | 252 | 27 | Fourth |
| Winchester | 22 | 11 | 0 | 11 | 376 | 381 | 22 | Sixth |
| Andover | 22 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 413 | 578 | 10 | Eleventh (& relegated) |
| London 4 South West | | | | | | | | |
| Trojans | 18 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 512 | 213 | 26 | Fourth |
| Gosport & Fareham | 18 | 7 | 0 | 11 | 272 | 435 | 14 | Sixth |
| Petersfield | 18 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 271 | 517 | 9 | Eighth |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|----|--|
| Hampshire One | | | | | | | | |
| Ellingham & Ringwood | 18 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 556 | 166 | 32 | |
| Sandown & Shanklin | 18 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 408 | 180 | 28 | |
| East Dorset | 18 | 12 | 1 | 5 | 314 | 230 | 25 | |
| Fordingbridge | 18 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 338 | 248 | 21 | |
| New Milton & District | 18 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 372 | 431 | 19 | |
| Southampton | 18 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 297 | 297 | 18 | |
| United Services | 18 | 7 | 0 | 11 | 210 | 341 | 14 | |
| Alton | 18 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 247 | 258 | 13 | |
| Farnborough | 18 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 176 | 413 | 6 | |
| Fareham Heathens | 18 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 130 | 484 | 4 | |

Sandown & Shanklin lost the play-off by a single point against Surrey One Runners-Up Old Alleynians

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|----|--|
| Hampshire Two | | | | | | | | |
| Eastleigh | 16 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 510 | 82 | 30 | |
| Romsey | 16 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 376 | 122 | 30 | |
| Aldershot & Fleet | 16 | 11 | 0 | 5 | 278 | 154 | 22 | |
| Millbrook | 16 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 299 | 216 | 19 | |
| Lytchett Minster | 16 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 339 | 213 | 14 | |
| Isle of Wight | 16 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 196 | 316 | 12 | |
| Nomads | 16 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 208 | 478 | 11 | |
| Ventnor | 16 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 107 | 489 | 4 | |
| Chineham | 16 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 91 | 334 | 2 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|------|--|
| Hampshire Three | | | | | | | | |
| Overton | 18 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 631 | 129 | 36 | |
| Fawley | 18 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 450 | 284 | 19 | |
| Paxton Pumas | 18 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 274 | 284 | 19 | |
| Kingsclere | 18 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 299 | 219 | 18 | |
| Alresford | 18 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 363 | 408 | 16* | |
| Verwood | 18 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 312 | 260 | 12** | |
| Stoneham | 18 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 131 | 876 | 0 | |

*points deducted

| MERIT TABLES | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| | P | W | D | L | Void | Awarded | F | A | Points | Ratio | % |
| Senior Merit | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trojans 2 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 358 | 145 | 39 | 2.47 | 93 |
| Chichester 2 | 14 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 373 | 209 | 33 | 1.78 | 79 |
| Tottonians 2 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 284 | 221 | 30 | 1.29 | 77 |
| Havant 3 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 188 | 240 | 23 | 0.78 | 64 |
| Winchester 2 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 206 | 241 | 26 | 0.85 | 62 |
| Petersfield 2 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 135 | 300 | 17 | 0.45 | 52 |
| Andover 2 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 126 | 248 | 14 | 0.51 | 47 |
| <i>Played/Void less than 75%</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Gosport & Fareham 2</i> | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 94 | 160 | 13 | 0.59 | |
| Merit One | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Winchester 3 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 425 | 65 | 31 | 6.54 | 94 |
| Andover 3 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 423 | 170 | 39 | 2.49 | 87 |
| Portsmouth 3 | 13 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 312 | 226 | 32 | 1.38 | 76 |
| Sandown & Shanklin 2 | 15 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 336 | 322 | 36 | 1.04 | 75 |
| New Milton & District 2 | 16 | 9 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 386 | 341 | 34 | 1.13 | 71 |
| Trojans 2 | 15 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 274 | 317 | 31 | 0.86 | 69 |
| United Services 2 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 135 | 237 | 19 | 0.57 | 58 |
| Basingstoke 3 | 12 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 213 | 190 | 20 | 1.12 | 56 |
| Farnboprough 2 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 154 | 650 | 21 | 0.24 | 47 |
| Southampton 2 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 170 | 310 | 12 | 0.55 | 40 |
| Merit Two | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fordingbridge 2 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 181 | 106 | 37 | 1.71 | 95 |
| Petersfield 3 | 11 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 420 | 128 | 29 | 3.28 | 88 |
| New Milton & District 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 117 | 102 | 20 | 1.15 | 74 |
| Isle of Wight 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 77 | 148 | 17 | 0.52 | 71 |
| Tottonians 3 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 217 | 141 | 23 | 1.54 | 70 |
| Fareham Heathens 2 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 104 | 188 | 17 | 0.55 | 63 |
| Ellingham & Ringwood 2 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 143 | 217 | 17 | 0.66 | 52 |
| Romsey 2 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 160 | 316 | 19 | 0.41 | 45 |
| <i>Played less than 75%</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Aldershot & Fleet 2</i> | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 68 | 111 | 7 | 0.61 | |
| Merit Three | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southampton 3 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 328 | 114 | 28 | 2.88 | 93 |
| Gosport & Fareham 3 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 290 | 164 | 26 | 1.77 | 79 |
| Millbrook 2 | 13 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 307 | 223 | 31 | 1.38 | 79 |
| Ryde | 13 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 321 | 274 | 29 | 1.17 | 74 |
| Eastleigh 2 | 14 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 336 | 265 | 35 | 1.27 | 73 |
| Portsmouth 4 | 13 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 244 | 251 | 25 | 0.97 | 64 |
| Chineham 2 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 132 | 258 | 20 | 0.51 | 61 |
| Overton 2 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 255 | 380 | 24 | 0.67 | 53 |
| Alresford 2 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 136 | 420 | 14 | 0.32 | 39 |
| <i>Played less than 75%</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Nomads</i> | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 187 | 187 | 19 | 1.00 | |
| Jersey Rugby Association League | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jersey 2 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 575 | 63 | 72 | | |
| Jersey United Banks | 12 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 411 | 174 | 57 | | |
| Guernsey 2 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 187 | 260 | 38 | | |
| St. Jacques | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 171 | 366 | 35 | | |
| Beeches | 11 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 156 | 279 | 32* | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|----|
| Jersey Wanderers | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 131 | 296 | 22 |
| Les Quennevais | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 135 | 306 | 19 |

COLTS LEAGUE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Points | Ratio | % |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Pool A | | | | | | | | | |
| Havant | 10 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 208 | 89 | 28 | 2.34 | 93 |
| Petersfield | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 267 | 74 | 25 | 3.61 | 83 |
| Basingstoke | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 226 | 171 | 20 | 1.32 | 67 |
| Trojans | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 138 | 146 | 20 | 0.95 | 67 |
| Alton | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 91 | 165 | 12 | 0.55 | 44 |
| Andover | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 61 | 346 | 11 | 0.18 | 41 |
| Pool B | | | | | | | | | |
| Gosport & Fareham | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 240 | 30 | 25 | 8.00 | 93 |
| Winchester | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 205 | 111 | 22 | 1.85 | 73 |
| Portsmouth | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 179 | 86 | 19 | 2.08 | 70 |
| Vectis | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 151 | 108 | 16 | 1.40 | 67 |
| Tottonians | 8 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 62 | 216 | 12 | 0.29 | 50 |
| Ellingham & Ringwood | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 299 | 6 | 0.18 | 33 |
| Quarter-Finals | | | | | | | | | |
| | Havant | | | | 27 | - | 6 | | Vectis |
| | Gosport & Fareham | | | | 12 | - | 0 | | Trojans |
| | Petersfield | | | | 7 | - | 5 | | Portsmouth |
| | Winchester | | | | 8 | - | 28 | | Basingstoke |
| Semi-Finals | | | | | | | | | |
| Cup | | | | | | | | | |
| | Havant | | | | 28 | - | 0 | | Basingstoke |
| | Gosport & Fareham | | | | 22 | - | 10 | | Petersfield |
| Plate | | | | | | | | | |
| | Alton | | | | 8 | - | 15 | | Ellingham & Ringwood |
| | Tottonians | | | | w/o | - | w/d | | Andover |
| FINALS | | | | | | | | | |
| CUP | | | | | | | | | |
| | Havant | | | | 23 | - | 22 | | Gosport & Fareham |
| Plate | | | | | | | | | |
| | Ellingham & Ringwood | | | | 0 | - | 15 | | Tottonians |

SEVENTEENS KNOCK-OUT

Not without its problems – particularly the problem created by mixing age groups. “In the beginning” the Clubs clearly wanted this competition to span not only the Under 17 age group but also – and just how anyone thought this could be policed – players who although Under 18 at season start had not yet reached that birthday. Hence the title is not Under 17 Knock-Out Cup. As the Clubs now state they are unable to manage a “Colts” League Squad without their Under 17’s it does appear that this age group is more dominant and the previous need to mix age groups in the Cup could now be rescinded. With a little bit of luck and some common-sense this can be sorted out during this close season. There are five Sundays before Christmas when there is no Colts League rugby which can be used. After Christmas it is more difficult – then the County fully programme kicks-in as does the National Clubs Under-17 Competition

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|-----|---|-----|--|----------------|
| Round One | | | | | | | | | |
| | Andover | | | | 6 | - | 8 | | Jersey |
| | Havant | | | | 33 | - | 7 | | Vectis |
| | Portsmouth | | | | 14 | - | 17 | | Alton |
| Quarter-Finals | | | | | | | | | |
| Cup | | | | | | | | | |
| | Basingstoke | | | | 12 | - | 25 | | Alton |
| | Gosport & Fareham | | | | 11 | - | 7 | | Tottonians |
| | Havant | | | | 13 | - | 15 | | Jersey |
| | Petersfield | | | | w/o | - | w/d | | Fawley |
| Plate | | | | | | | | | |
| | Vectis | | | | 17 | - | 5 | | Andover |
| | Havant | | | | w/d | - | w/o | | Basingstoke |
| | Portsmouth | | | | | | | | Tottonians Bye |
| Semi-Finals | | | | | | | | | |
| Cup | | | | | | | | | |
| | Gosport & Fareham | | | | w/d | - | w/o | | Jersey |
| | Petersfield | | | | 27 | - | 7 | | Alton |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----|---|----|-------------|
| Plate | Tottonians | 14 | - | 24 | Basingstoke |
| | Vectis | 38 | - | 18 | Portsmouth |
| FINALS | | | | | |
| CUP | Petersfield | 13 | - | 6 | Jersey |
| Plate | Vectis | 21 | v | 12 | Basingstoke |

JUNIOR LEAGUES

| | P | W | D | L | Void | F | A | Points |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Under 16 League One | | | | | | | | |
| Winchester | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300 | 44 | 24 |
| United Services | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 176 | 78 | 19* |
| Fareham Heathens | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 174 | 101 | 18 |
| Petersfield | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 167 | 105 | 16 |
| Trojans | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 146 | 125 | 14 |
| Jersey | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 163 | 200 | 14 |
| Havant | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 112 | 132 | 13* |
| Basingstoke | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 72 | 290 | 10 |
| New Milton & District | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 86 | 329 | 7* |

* 3 points deducted, failed to provide referee

Under 16 League Two

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Tottonians | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 374 | 38 | 24 |
| Alton | 8 | 7** | 0 | 1 | 0 | 164 | 60 | 22 |
| Andover | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 173 | 102 | 18 |
| Portsmouth | 7 | 5** | 0 | 2 | 0 | 172 | 53 | 17 |
| Ellingham & Ringwood | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 134 | 142 | 15* |
| Gosport & Fareham | 8 | 2** | 0 | 6 | 0 | 42 | 188 | 12 |
| Guernsey | 8 | 2** | 0 | 6 | 0 | 84 | 276 | 12 |
| Vectis | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 80 | 231 | 10 |
| Romsey | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 56 | 189 | 6 |

* 3 points deducted, failed to provide referee

** A win & 3 points awarded for matches when opposition failed to field front row or enough players or cried off

Under 15 League One

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|----|
| Winchester | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 237 | 35 | 23 |
| Havant | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 199 | 30 | 23 |
| Jersey | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 245 | 71 | 19 |
| Trojans | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 170 | 65 | 19 |
| New Milton & District | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 76 | 128 | 16 |
| Andover | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 89 | 173 | 14 |
| Portsmouth | 8 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 83 | 158 | 12 |
| Alton | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 50 | 327 | 10 |
| Vectis | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 56 | 218 | 8 |

Under 15 League Two

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|----|
| Overton | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 378 | 68 | 21 |
| Petersfield | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 190 | 120 | 19 |
| Romsey | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 162 | 176 | 17 |
| Ellingham & Ringwood | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 130 | 146 | 13 |
| Gosport & Fareham | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 115 | 189 | 11 |
| Basingstoke | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 65 | 138 | 10 |
| Tottonians | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 70 | 145 | 8 |
| United Services | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 63 | 191 | 8 |

Under 14 League One

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|------|-----|-----|----|
| Winchester | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 239 | 13 | 21 |
| Havant | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 169 | 23 | 19 |
| Basingstoke | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 172 | 92 | 17 |
| Jersey | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 77 | 109 | 16 |
| Portsmouth | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 105 | 85 | 15 |
| Petersfield | 8 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1(W) | 42 | 87 | 11 |
| New Milton & District | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 50 | 142 | 11 |
| Andover | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 69 | 194 | 11 |
| Ellingham & Ringwood | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1(L) | 12 | 235 | 7 |

Under 14 League Two

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|------|-----|----|----|
| Trojans | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 148 | 20 | 21 |
| Romsey | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 155 | 78 | 19 |
| Vectis | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 172 | 25 | 17 |
| Gosport & Fareham | 7 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1(W) | 113 | 44 | 15 |
| Alton | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 123 | 99 | 13 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|------|----|-----|----|
| Tottonians | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 94 | 167 | 11 |
| United Services | 7 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1(L) | 34 | 204 | 9 |
| Eastleigh | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 34 | 213 | 7 |

HAMPSHIRE SCHOOLS RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

Under 18

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| WREN Cup | King Edward VIth School beat Churcher's College |
| BIRCH Plate | Barton Peveril College beat Hampshire Collegiate School |
| KEAST Bowl | Queen Mary's College beat Oaklands School |

President's Sevens held at Alton RFC

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|----|---|----|---------------------------|
| Cup | Havant College | 15 | - | 14 | Portsmouth Grammar School |
| Plate | Barton Peveril College | 24 | - | 10 | Farnborough SFC |
| Bowl | Totton College | 17 | - | 7 | Itchen College |

Under 16

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Cup | Lord Wandsworth College beat Churcher's College |
| Plate | Brookfield School beat Romsey School |
| Bowl | Houndsdown School beat Eggars School |

Under 16 Sevens held at HCS

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|----|---|----|-----------------------------|
| Cup | Portsmouth Grammar School | 19 | - | 14 | Oaklands Catholic School |
| Plate | Ryde School | 19 | - | 10 | Hampshire Collegiate School |
| Bowl | Test Valley Community School | 33 | - | 0 | Fort Hill |

Under 15

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---------------------------|
| SUGDEN Cup | St. Johns College | 17 | - | 5 | Portsmouth Grammar School |
| SUGDEN Plate | King Edward VIth School | 29 | - | 10 | Romsey School |
| Bowl | Testbourne Community School | 17 | - | 12 | Salesian College |

Under 14 Ten's

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Established Schools | Cup: Lord Wandsworth; Plate: Salesian College ; Shield: Romsey School |
| Developing Schools | Cup: Romsey School |
| Emerging Schools | Cup: Amery Hill School |

DAILY EXPRESS EMERGING SCHOOLS RUGBY FESTIVAL

Qualifiers for the Final Stages

Under 12 Emerging School: Bay House, Gosport; Under 13 New School: The Mountbatten School, Romsey
Under 14 Boys: Sandown High School; Under 14 Girls: Perins School, Alresford

HAMPSHIRE MINI/MIDI TOURNAMENTS

Havant RFC reluctantly had to abandon the **Under 7** and **Under 8** Tournaments
Firstly on 16 March because of FLOODING and then on the re-arranged date of 5 April because of SNOW

Held at New Milton & District RFC on 9 March, 2008

Under 9

Shield
Plate
Bowl

Under 10

Shield
Plate
Bowl

Held at Gosport & Fareham RFC on 2 March, 2008

Under 11

Shield Havant 0 - 0 Winchester
Plate Andover 10 - 5 Basingstoke

Under 12

Shield Portsmouth 5 - 5 Gosport & Fareham
Plate New Milton 5 - 0 Winchester

To the Limit and Beyond with CLUB HAMPSHIRE

County XV

We had played six hours of Championship Rugby before we conceded our first points in the third minute of the second half of the Final. A remarkable achievement by anyone's standard. Lest it be forgotten when we played Dorset & Wilts they had not withdrawn from the Championship; the result may have been expunged but when we played them, we played them for real.

Consistency was the name of the game; both props, both locks and the scrum-half all started every match as did the blind-side although Harry Heasman started at 8 against Sussex. Nine tries in each of the opening three matches – not only none against but at the most we had given away only two or three kickable (and missed) penalties in those three matches. And no more than that in the next two games. Then for the semi we had to cope with the loss of five players native to the City of Portsmouth to the FA Cup Final at Wembley coupled with the loss of two other players to University Finals and two to injury; and we certainly did cope against a Kent side who threw everything at us in the first twenty minutes before we broke their defence and got a five try haul.

The first real test came, as expected, in the Final against a Leicestershire side on their first visit to Hampshire. Their defence was much stronger – indeed it looked as good as ours had been. We should really have turned round more than 12 nil up in a strong, at times very strong, wind. With our line breached for the first time just after the re-start we came straight back at them to maintain a two-score lead. Before the third quarter was up however that had been reduced to just seven points and we then soaked up constant pressure not alleviated until the running clock showed 42 minutes. The loyal home spectators were as elated as the players – who achieved their aim in such style as to show the rest of the country that County rugby is alive and kicking, and both attractive and successful down here in unfashionable Hampshire.

Maybe we were favoured with the luck of the draw with home venues for both semi and final. But we would have exchanged that advantage in the Final for the chance to have played at Twickenham alongside the other two levels of the Championship – and as are played every other RFU Competition Final at every other level be it school, university, or club.

So some of our players are unlikely to have that opportunity again – as either age or career takes them away from Hampshire. Next season we play in the middle tier – matches will be more difficult but with the nucleus of this side still available we will be in contention in our pool matches against Eastern Counties, Hertfordshire and Middlesex.

It would be wrong not to single out Scott MacKechnie for particular praise and thanks. An inspired choice by the coaching staff, Scott was a magnificent Captain leading from the front and playing, and enjoying, every minute of every game. There were no weak links one to fifteen, nor from sixteen to twenty-two when they came off the bench. All were fully committed to the cause and no-one let us down. Thirty-four players in all gave everything they had to the County cause. It was not an easy choice to make but the F.W.T. Bunney Trophy for the County Championship Player of the Year goes to Russell Forster now of Rosslyn Park, and formerly at Portsmouth when he had his first County game back in May 2000.

The County's thanks go also to those behind the Team, to John Byett and Martin Humberstone both of Basingstoke, and to Jason Ford and Jim Pearce both of Portsmouth. Also to Steve Tristram who took on the role of Match Doctor without having to be asked (as I forgot this essential need). And to the Clubs who encouraged their players to play for us: Havant and Basingstoke with eight each of the 34, and Portsmouth with five. Along with two from Winchester and one each from Tottonians, Gosport & Fareham and Farnborough. The remaining eight came from out of town – but all had roots firmly in Hampshire's clubs. I have no doubt that all the players will return to their Clubs next season better for the experience of having played for a winning County side.

Thanks also to Basingstoke who hosted what we thought might have been our only home game and then our semi at short notice. Circumstances conspired against using Basingstoke for the Final – but on reflection being able to use the magnificent Army Rugby Stadium (even if we couldn't get the PA system nor the scoreboard to work) and then having the Players' Dinner at a smart hotel did enable us to stage a Final in surroundings which most players were not used to. Not exactly home advantage then after all.

Lastly it was highly gratifying to see so many members of the Squad who have graduated from Club Hampshire's age grade representative sides and particularly the Under 20's of recent years. Just reward for Mike Glogg in his first Presidential Year – especially as we recently celebrated the 15th anniversary of the start of Club Hampshire which has been under Mike's astute stewardship throughout.

The players did not go un-rewarded – not that they were paid; but we did look after them with stash and refreshments. Which all takes money – money well spent in my opinion – which it would be marvelous to be able to offset by local sponsorship. Does you Company need a winning team to help spread its name throughout the County?

Under 20 XV

Our Under 20 Fifteen had a good run in their Championship recording impressive wins over Hertfordshire and Sussex, a not so impressive draw against the Army and qualifying from their Group to contest the London and South-East Division Final which saw another impressive win this time over Middlesex. In so doing Hampshire became the first holders of the Jason Leonard Cup.

Seven players started all five matches including inspirational skipper Paul Morgan; Karl Buttle who followed that with four out of five starts for the seniors, being rested for the semi-final so that he might play for London and the South-East on the Sunday against the Midlands; Matt Oliver who benched for the seniors in their first match; James Monck; Phillippe Pearse; Tim Cronin; and Luke Richardson who benched for the seniors in all five of their matches as well.

Drawn away in the Forest for the National Semi-Final they were beaten by eventual champions Gloucestershire. Over the past six years since winning the Championship in 2002 we have contested two semi-finals and two other quarter-finals. A pretty impressive advertisement for the benefits of The Hampshire Way.

The Brian Short Memorial Trophy for the Young Player who best epitomised the Spirit of Hampshire Rugby goes to James Monck, Hampshire Under 20 and University of Wales Institute, Cardiff

14 to 18 Groups

Peter Montague-Ebbs continues to perform wonders in the management of the first stage of The Hampshire Way. Initial numbers were down this season – because of the timing imposed upon us by the RFU which identifies the autumn half-term week as being a “County” week at the Under 14 age grade. There were still 200 plus attending the district assessment evenings/Sundays from whom he has to identify and select the top 20% to produce two Fifteens (plus replacements of course) to represent the County in the Spring. He is ably abetted and assisted by a strong band of club coaches many of whom go on to be selected to coach a County Squad. The organisation and feed-back takes many volunteer hours and our players owe them all a great big thank-you.

To illustrate the enormity of this task, the 45 players in the County Squad came from 29 schools and 15 clubs. And they lost only one of their six matches.

We continue to find the selection methods used by our colleagues from the other London Division Counties to be very suspect. While our results may not have been that impressive we certainly had more than just Peter Austin worthy of a first trial for London at 18 Group. We only managed the one London Triallist as well at 16 Group – Joe Atkinson. Like Peter he too went on to play for England. Unfortunately our other potential star at 16 Group, Will Spencer, was injured and couldn't trial.

The Club Hampshire Academy has taken into its programme the School of Rugby concept introduced by the RFU this season. As always we provide far more in quantity and far more in quality than the RFU requires of us – for no more RFU money. Mike Glogg manages the three Potential Elite Player Centres, each with its own dedicated lead coach and an administrator and each holding a session every week over 30 weeks from September thru April. We call the boys in these Centres the “Bronze Group” their ability and potential being just below that of the “Silver” and “Gold” Groups which are managed by the London Irish Academy with whom we have very close links. At the end of this season five of these boys have been recommended to try for entry into the Silver Group. These assessments are being held by London Irish on four Monday evenings in July at Winchester RFC - the Youth Chairman in all of our Clubs has been advised of this, as have the schools. Unfortunately there are also some dozen from the Bronze Group being advised that they will not be attending next season. The three Centres are at HMS TEMERAIRE for South-East Hampshire, Toynebee School, for the South-West and Perins School for central and North Hampshire.

Finally a big public thank-you for the generous donation made to the Academy by Graham Coutts.

Honours Board

| | |
|----------------|--|
| England | Jonny Wilkinson, Tom Rees, Mike Brown |
| England Saxons | Anthony Allen, Matt Banahan, Ugo Monye |
| England Sevens | Matt Banahan |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| England 18 Group | Peter Austin |
| England 16 Group | Joe Atkinson |
| England Women | Fiona Pocock |
| England Women A | Fiona Pocock, Rowena Burnfield |
| England Women U20 | Victoria Cornborough, Rowena Burnfield |

The Robbie Keast Memorial Bowl Awards for 2007-2008 go to
 18 Group Toby Hill, Hampshire Captain and Barton Peveril College
 16 Group Joe Atkinson, Petersfield and Churcher's College

CLUB HAMPSHIRE RESULTS 2007 - 2008

COUNTY FIFTEEN (Manager John Byett)

| | | | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|---|----|---|----|-----------------------|
| 26 Apr | Dorset & Wilts | W | 55 | - | 0 | Swanage & Wareham RFC |
| 3 May | Buckinghamshire | W | 54 | - | 0 | Basingstoke RFC |
| 10 May | Sussex | W | 53 | - | 0 | Horsham RFC |
| 17 May | Semi-Final v Kent | W | 37 | - | 0 | Basingstoke RFC |
| 24 May | Final v Leicestershire | W | 22 | - | 12 | Aldershot |

UNDER 20 XV (Manager Mike Marchant)

| | | | | | | |
|----------|------------------------------|---|----|---|----|-------------------|
| 13 Jan | Kent | W | 24 | - | 12 | Charlton Park RFC |
| 27 Jan | Hertfordshire | W | 61 | - | 10 | Winchester RFC |
| 17 Feb | Army | D | 7 | - | 7 | Aldershot |
| 2 Mar | Sussex | W | 63 | - | 5 | Winchester RFC |
| 30 Mar | London Final v Middlesex | W | 26 | - | 14 | Aldershot |
| 20 April | Semi-Final v Gloucestershire | L | 7 | - | 26 | Lydney RFC |

18 GROUP

(Manager Tim Allen)

| | County | | A XV | | | |
|--------|-----------|---|---------|---|---------|---------------------------------|
| 14 Oct | Middlesex | L | 12 - 38 | W | 34 - 33 | Trojans RFC |
| 28 Oct | Surrey | L | 9 - 22 | - | | King Edward School, Southampton |
| 4 Nov | Essex | L | 17 - 33 | - | | Westcliffe RFC |

17 GROUP

(Manager Debbie Morgan)

| | County | | A XV | | | |
|--------|------------------|---|---------|---|--------|---------------|
| 24 Feb | Middlesex | L | 19 - 20 | W | 14 - 6 | Ealing RFC |
| 9 Mar | Sussex | L | 9 - 22 | - | | Havant RFC |
| 13 Apr | Eastern Counties | L | 0 - 7 | - | | Cambridge RFC |
| 30 Apr | Dorset & Wilts | L | 14 - 15 | - | | Salisbury RFC |

16 GROUP

(Manager Ed. Neville)

| | County | | A XV | | | |
|--------|-----------|---|---------|---|---------|----------------|
| 21 Oct | Middlesex | L | 26 - 27 | L | 15 - 30 | Portsmouth RFC |
| 28 Oct | Essex | W | 20 - 19 | W | 22 - 7 | St. Albans |
| 11 Nov | Sussex | W | 6 - 0 | W | 22 - 5 | Portsmouth RFC |
| 25 Nov | Kent | L | 10 - 35 | - | | Portsmouth RFC |
| 13 Apr | Sussex | W | 41 - 3 | - | | Bognor RFC |

15 GROUP

(Manager Derek Forrester)

| | County | | A XV | | | |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------|--------|---|---------|--|
| 24 Feb | Middlesex | L | 5 - 8 | W | 42 - 12 | Petersfield RFC |
| 9 Mar | Kent | L | 0 - 11 | - | | Gravesend RFC |
| 13 Apr | Hertfordshire | W | 17 - 8 | W | 14 - 5 | away |
| 3 May | Regional Ten-a-sides | P 6; W 2; D 2; L 2 | | | | 4 th out of 7 at St. Albans |

14 GROUP

(Manager Peter Ebbs)

| | County | | A XV | | | |
|--------|----------------|---|--------|---|---------|-----------------|
| 24 Feb | Middlesex | W | 27 - 0 | L | 0 - 45 | Saracens RFC |
| 6 Apr | Dorset & Wilts | D | 5 - 5 | W | 14 - 12 | Bournemouth RFC |
| 20 Apr | Surrey | W | 26 - 0 | W | 17 - 5 | Andover RFC |

Played 39; Won 23; Drawn 2; For 866; Against 518 Success rate 61%

WOMEN'S XV

18 Nov Sussex
18 Nov Essex

W 24 - 0
W 7 - 5

Chiswick RFC
Chiswick RFC

GIRLS' UNDER 18

18 Nov Sussex
2 Dec Kent

County A XV
W 36 - 7
W 32 - 0 W 15 - 5

Petersfield RFC
Ashford RFC

GIRLS' UNDER 15

18 Nov Sussex
2 Dec Kent

L 10 - 26
W 19 - 0

Petersfield RFC
Ashford RFC

**Success rate 85%
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 2008**

| | DORSET & WILTS W 55 - 0 | BUCKINGHAMSHIRE W 54 - 0 | SUSSEX W 53 - 0 | KENT W 37 - 0 | LEICESTERSHIRE W 22 - 12 |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Keith Molyneux | FB (5xC) | FB** (2xC;1xP) | FB | - | not used |
| Havant | | | | | |
| Chris Ashwin | - | - | - | FB (3xC;2xP) | FB (2xC;1xP) |
| Newbury | | | | | |
| Karl Buttle | W | W | W | - | W** |
| Basingstoke | | | | | |
| Richard Buck | C | Rep W | Rep FB | W | W |
| Havant | | | | | |
| David Byett | C | C | C | - | C |
| Nottingham | | | | | |
| Simon Buckland | - | C* | C | C | C |
| Basingstoke | | | | | |
| Russell Osman | Rep C | - | - | C | - |
| Old Albanians | | | | | |
| Oge Ofuasia | W | W** | W | - | - |
| Portsmouth | | | | | |
| Wayne Dugan | - | - | - | W* | - |
| Gosport & Fareham | | | | | |
| Andrew Byett | - | - | - | Rep W** | - |
| Bracknell | | | | | |
| Andy Ashwin | FH | Rep C | Rep W | Rep SH | not used |
| Winchester | | | | | |
| Steve Claffey | Rep FH | FH | FH (1xC) | - | Rep C |
| Havant | | | | | |
| Simon Humberstone | - | Rep FH* (1xC) | Rep FH (3xC) | FH | FH |
| UWIC | | | | | |
| Grant Morris | SH | SH | SH | SH | SH |
| Havant | | | | | |
| Neil Young | L | | H | LH LH | LHLH |
| Basingstoke | | | | | |
| Kankudai Osborne | - | Rep LH* | Rep TH | Rep TH | not used |
| Farnborough | | | | | |
| Martin Pearse | H(** badge awarded) | Rep H | Rep H | - | Rep H |
| Portsmouth | | | | | |
| Mike Paniera | - | H* | H | H | - |
| Portsmouth | | | | | |
| Tom Boland | - | - | - | Rep H** | - |
| Winchester | | | | | |
| Steve Cruddas | - | - | - | - | H |
| Havant | | | | | |
| Tom Wells | TH | TH | TH | TH | TH |
| Havant | | | | | |
| Scott MacKechnie (Captain) | L(*county tie awarded) | L | L | L | L** |
| Portsmouth | | | | | |
| Russell Forster | L | L | L | L | L |
| Rosslyn Park | | | | | |
| Harry Heasman | 6* | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6** |
| Havant | | | | | |
| Tom Radbourne | - | - | 7 | - | Rep 8** |
| Newbury | | | | | |
| Graham Butterworth | 7 | 7 | - | - | - |
| Portsmouth | | | | | |
| Simon Appleby | - | Rep 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Basingstoke | | | | | |
| Dylan Raubenheimer | 8 | - | Rep 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Havant | | | | | |
| Tommy Booth | - | 8** | - | - | - |
| Bath Uni | | | | | |
| Jamie Folan | Rep H* | - | - | - | - |
| Basingstoke | | | | | |
| Matthew Oliver | Rep TH* | - | - | - | - |
| Basingstoke | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Luke Richardson Basingstoke Ross Stirling Basingstoke Robbie Searle Tottonians | Rep 8** not used Rep W* | not used - - - | Rep 7 - - - | Rep 8 - - Rep W | Rep 8 - - - |
| Tries | Buttle 2 Ofuasia Richardson 2 Searle 2 Molyneux Morris | Buttle 2 Ofuasia Appleby Byett 3 Booth Heasman | Buttle Raubenheimer Appleby 2 Byett Buck Morris Ashwin Claffey | Buckland Osman Appleby Young Buck | Buckland Raubenheimer Appleby |

NATIONAL UNDER 20 CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

| | HERTFORDSHIRE W 61 -10 | ARMY D 7 - 7 | SUSSEX W 63 - 5 | MIDDLESEX W 26 -14 | GLOUCESTERSHIRE L 7 - 26 |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greg Sullivan Newbury | FB | - | FB | - | - |
| Glen Lewis Basingstoke | W | FB | - | FB | Rep |
| Dan Robinson Vectis | - | - | R- | Rep FB | - |
| *Karl Buttle Basingstoke | W | W | W | W | W |
| Daniel Mays Old Patesians (ex Farnboro') | Rep C | W | W | W | W |
| Dave King Exeter Uni. | C | Rep L | Rep | - | - |
| Phillipe Pearse Redruth (ex Portsmouth) | C | C | C | C | C |
| Michael Thomas Portsmouth Uni. | - | C | C | C | - |
| Kieran McRoberts Gosport & Fareham | Rep C | - | Rep C | Rep W | C |
| Simon Gregory Portsmouth | FH | FH | Rep FH | Rep C | FH |
| Ben Rubio Lord Wandsworth College | - | - | FH | FH | - |
| Tim Cronin London Irish | SH | SH | SH | SH | SH |
| Thomas Whyld Gosport & Fareham | - | - | Rep SH | Rep FH | FB |
| *Matthew Oliver Basingstoke | LH | LH | LH | LH | LH |
| *James Folan Basingstoke | H | H | - | Rep H | Rep H |
| Callum McGregor Newbury | Rep H | Rep H | H | H | H |
| James Monck UWIC | TH | TH | TH | TH | TH |
| Oliver Watts Newbury | - | Rep TH | - | Rep | Rep P |
| Rob Good Alton/London Irish | L | - | L | L | L |
| Lenny Brown Southampton Uni. | L | L | Rep L | Rep L | Rep L |
| Oliver Taylor Winchester | - | L | 6 | - | Rep |
| David Felton Jersey | 6 | 6 | - | 6 | 6 |
| Paul Morgan (Captain) Newbury | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| *Luke Richardson Basingstoke | 8 | 8 | L | L | L |
| Liam Perkins Gosport & Fareham | Rep 8 | - | 8 | 8 | 8 |

(* also played for County Senior XV)

| | | | | | |
|-------|--|--------|--|-----------------|------------|
| Tries | Pearse (2) Buttle Lewis McGregor Monck Morgan Richardson Sullivan | Cronin | Buttle (2) Mays (2) Morgan (2) Brown Good Pearse Whyld | Good Perkins | Richardson |
|-------|--|--------|--|-----------------|------------|

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Conversions | Gregory (8) | Gregory | Gregory (3) Rubio (3) | Rubio (2) | Gregory |
| Penalties | | - | Rubio | Rubio (4) | |

(Unfortunately office records are incomplete and the above has not been fully checked for accuracy)

COMMUNITY RUGBY AND CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Dave Marsden has continued to encourage and assist our Clubs in pursuit of our strategic aims of More People, Better People and Better Places, More Fun. He has been well supported in this by the RFU professionals, our Rugby Development Officers, Jon Brookstein (just completing his fourth year in Hampshire) and Jamie Sanders who came to us last October after Gavin Williams was promoted to RFU Southern Region Coach Development Officer.

The successful Clubs' Meeting at Trojans in February saw the Regional RFU Funding and Facilities Manager give a presentation on how Clubs can apply for funding from all the various sources available. The importance of Clubs having a Club Development Plan was a constant theme of the evening – and Dave Marsden will assist Clubs in producing these; he has provided templates on our website for Clubs to begin the process.

Our own Grants Scheme has now helped eleven Clubs with sums ranging from £500 to £1000 and totalling over ten thousand pounds. This scheme will continue next season and has been augmented by the Decorations Fund which will pay out £200 for paint for those Clubs prepared for a little DIY.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that last year's RFU Go Play initiative probably brought in new players to the Game, and enticed back some who may have left the game prematurely. You will know if your Club gained more players or even managed to field an extra side. Next Season's initiative is called Play-On and requires clubs and particularly schools to identify "Pathfinders" to keep track of players moving from School to University to Club to ensure they are not lost to the Game.

If the Referees' Society statistics are indicative of actual participation then it would seem that while there were more matches scheduled (not just down to the extra week last season) there were more matches cancelled than the season before. And far too many at too short a notice to enable the referee to be re-deployed meaningfully. There really must be an improvement in communications between Clubs' Match Secretaries (and every Club must have one) and their appointed referees.

Prop Idol 2008 was a great success thanks to Jamie Sanders who did really well in his first year as an RDO to grasp this project and manage it so well. Not only do the 400 youngsters who participate benefit but so do the Club Coaches who attend. A worthwhile expenditure of our money as we now have a core of specialised front row coaches.

Lastly in this area I have to mention RugbyFirst the all-encompassing RFU on-line database which promises to be a huge asset – eventually. It is probably the most frustrating bit of software many of us have encountered; I am pleased to say that the RDOs' are planning training evenings in the County with their colleagues from RFU IT in the very near future.

NO-SIDE

One loss following the move from The Office Above the Forge Garage is that I can no longer hear the repartee twixt foreman and customer. "What about that noise that sounded like a midget hitting something with a hammer?" "No problem madam, we've taken the hammer off the midget."

Another loss – and an exceedingly surprising one - was the loss suffered by our smallest island club at the beginning of the season when Sark managed to go down 39 – nil to an even smaller island – Herm (population about one tenth that of Sark). I'm told it was the 9 Springboks working in the (only) hotel who did the damage!

I wonder if this really is the last Report I will write? Despite advertising I have yet to have receive any serious enquiries about the job. If it is the last, then I hope I can leave the Union no worse off than it may have been when I started on 2 January, 1992. Enough changes certainly have been made both to the Game and to our Union in that time. After seventeen Reports you have all had enough of me!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 125 Dinner next year!

N.J. Stone OBE, Executive Director