



HUNTERS YPLN

2021 Annual General Meeting

Thursday 25th November 7.30pm



Umpire Secretary's Report

The move to having two Division 1s that was brought in at the 2019 AGM meant a change to the way that the Umpires' Panel operated in 2021, postponed for a year as a result of Covid-19.

There were never going to be enough umpires on the panel to appoint two to every fixture in the Premier and First Divisions so the decision was taken that the panel would provide two umpires for Premier Division matches and one for First Division matches with the home teams in the First Division providing a club umpire to stand alongside, and on a par with, the Panel Umpire.

The system worked well and I am grateful to all the panel and club umpires who stood on a regular basis. I am particularly grateful to the five club umpires who stood in as Panel Umpires on a dozen occasions when I was short and also to Malcolm Forbes who also provided a couple of umpires to fill vacancies.

The number of umpires on the Panel is at a dangerously low level and clubs need to take responsibility themselves and cajole people into 'taking up the white coat' if the current arrangement is to continue. I can foresee a number of long-standing panel umpires retiring in the not-too-distant future. They will need replacing and more!

The League will play its part and will offer incentives to clubs and the participants themselves who come forward to do the training and join the panel. The training will be in the new year and details of it and the incentives will be published to clubs after Christmas, so get talking to people now!

The overall average umpire's mark for 2021 was 22.69, compared with 22.33 in 2019. The highest marked umpire and winner of the Lance Moore Trophy was Paul Stubley with an average of 24.10, slightly ahead of recent winner Keith Pepper who averaged 24.10. It was decided that the criteria for the Don Layfield Trophy for the best club umpire should be changed and it will now be awarded to the best marked club umpire in the First Divisions. The first winner of the trophy in its new guise is Trevor Markham of Hull Zingari. Congratulations to both Paul and Trevor.

Rob Smith
1/10/21