

LITTLE KNOWN UMPIRE AT TOP OF ICL APPOINTMENTS



Little-known English umpire David Brandon, CEO of IICUS, who is in his second season with the Indian Cricket League (ICL), currently shares the highest number of on-field appointments with former County umpire Allan Jones as the League's 2008-09 'Indian Championship' moves into the second third of its scheduled forty-one match series. Brandon, whose prior experience was limited to County Second XI games, and Jones who worked at County level for twenty-five years, have both stood in six matches to date.

Equal third on the appointments list are Sri Lankan Ranmore Martinez and Pakistani Shakeel Kahn with four matches each, then come Australian David Orchard, who is a former South African Test umpire, and Keith Smith of Ireland, who each have three. Martinez has been in the third umpire's chair on four occasions, Brandon, Jones, Kahn and Orchard twice, and Smith once. On the match referee side, Ajit Wadekar has been on duty in eight of the thirteen games played until last night, and his colleague Erapalli Prasanna the other five.

None of the six Indians who stood in the ICL's twenty match 'domestic Twenty20' competition last month, or the single match referee used, have been named for the current series to date. ICL officials have indicated that the appointment of umpires "from other countries" for their current series is part of an anti-corruption drive.

The ICL says that it has "strictly followed" anti-corruption regulations stipulated by the International Cricket Council for all their matches. Organisers reportedly believe that corrupt practices such as betting or match-fixing are unlikely, however, they "don't want to take any chance whatsoever" of things going awry.

Two Melbourne-based "anti-corruption officers", Howard Beer and David Reilly, have been hired for the current tournament. The ICL says that players are not allowed to have mobile phones in dressing rooms and visitors are barred from those areas, and that Beer and Reilly are "keeping their eyes and ears open even during the players practice sessions".

Extracts from Tasmanian E-news 333