



## MEETING MINUTES

MEETING NAME	UMPIRING COMMITTEE	HELD AT	The Hockey Stadium, Milton Keynes
LEAD	LIZ PELLING (Chairman) JANE NOCKOLDS	NOTE TAKER	Liz Pelling
DATE	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2007	START TIME END TIME	11.00AM 5.00PM
PRESENT	Present: Marc Abraham (MA), Bruce Bale (BB), David Lane (NPUA), Jane Nockolds (JN), Liz Pelling (LP), Karen Daffey (KD), Jo Davey (JD) and Alan Grocock (AG)		

### 1. Apologies

Dawn Bonner and Julia Gill

Alan Grocock was welcomed to his first EHUC meeting and thanked for volunteering as a member of this key strategic group.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting (15.10.07)

Agreed as a true record

### 3. Matters Arising not covered by agenda items Matters Arising from October meeting

- Sally Munday provided EHUC with a revised staff organisation chart. EH who does what?
- EH Umpire Performance Report Update. Due to change in priorities at EH, draft of the plan has been delayed until early February. Will be available for review by EHUC, NPUA & GB when Ready **Action LP to advise NPUA**
- **Terms of Reference review:** The EHUC TORs will be submitted to the January board meeting **Action Sally Munday**
- **Succession planning:** Changes agreed for 2008. David Lane replaces Sandy Richards who has chosen to step down. NPUA advised Andy Mair will be new representative provided dates could accommodate term time. Dino Willox will represent NPUA if AM not available. **Action LP to write to Sandy and thank her for her considerable contribution to the EHUC**
- **HIPACS – High Performance camps.** EHUC suggest ideal place for best young umpire(s) from RYUAGs and NYUPL to be residents alongside players. Will be involved in seminars, fitness training etc and can umpire development games. Performances pays using MAN sponsorship. Pete Nicholson to oversee. Administrators to assist JN with umpires. EHUC keen to stress that this should be a no pressure environment for umpires, but perhaps an umpire coach could be assigned **Action JN to write to RYUAGs and ask for suggested participants**
- **Statement Regarding Young Umpires Officiating at Senior Hockey Matches.** EHUC reviewed the current statement on the EH website. Changes to the statement suggested below for onward distribution to RYUAGs and HUAs and update on EH website **Action JN:**

'It cannot be emphasised enough that England Hockey recommends that U18 umpires, other than those approved by the NYUAG and RYUAGs, do not umpire adult matches unless supervised by appropriately qualified and checked coaches/mentors. Welfare precautions should ensure the deployment of young umpires to games appropriate to their stage of development.'

- **NPUA asked to investigate insurance** cover available to umpires on exchanges, and also to update members on current level of insurance cover available **Action DL/NPUA**
- **Code of Discipline** – Draft should be available to EHUC next meeting
- **Minimum Level Requirements for Umpiring League Hockey** - JN presented a paper based on research carried out by EH based on findings from other sports **Action JN to circulate paper to EHUC members**
- **Strategy – Indoor award** MA and BB to formulate feedback on indoor award proposals and forward to DL who will review. DB to then send feedback to R Jenkins/J O'Hara to include suggestions by end February if possible. It was then suggested the final draft be circulated to Val Sassall, for coaching input, and Ros Marsh as a member of the Indoor committee. **ACTION MA, BB, DL and DB**
- EHF has requested that International umpires be reminded of the travel policy for appointments abroad. **Action LP to discuss with AM**
- Dawn Bonner confirmed as NPUA Welfare Officer. Appointment needs to be noted on NPUA website **Action NPUA**

#### 4. **Chairman's Report ( previously distributed)**

LP had attended a meeting to discuss the Strategic Objectives of EH from 2009-13. Meeting included the EH Board, RCC and Strategic Chairs. Further meeting will take place in earl 2008. EHUC consider specific umpiring objectives when outline plan available. **Action Hold for future meeting**

Youth and Competitions committee are looking at priority list for future years. If structure changes significantly, this will have an impact on umpiring at youth level. **Action JN/LP to request that other Strategic groups are consulted on any major changes to programme**

Youth Panel are reviewing the National Festival. This year, the EH Cup finals will be held on the Saturday of the festival. Opportunities for mentoring young umpires with senior NPUA umpires at finals. **Action: LP to discuss with NPUA**

British Umpires to officiate at Beijing Olympics & Qualifiers. EHUC offers congratulations to Andy Mair for his selection to the 08 Olympics in Beijing, and to Hamish Jamson & Dawn Henning who will officiate at Olympic Qualifiers.

#### 5. **NPUA Report**

Circulated by Andy Mair ahead of meeting. Updates given on:

- Exchange programme success
- International strategy (see matters arising for update)
- Sponsorship – NPUA are still seeking new sponsor following end of Travis Perkins deal.
- Development Opportunities. Indoor DVD complete. Coaching DVD being finalised. Development groups being arranged for second half of season as part of NPUA's commitment to the development of its umpires
- Concerns re EH Cup competition entries. **Action AM to write report to EH Competitions Committee, cc EHUC, with concerns**

- Match Officials. EHUC agreed that this should be referred to TODG. NPUA Exec need to formalise a report and sent to TODG, to include options available for feedback. **Action JN and AM**

## 6. GB Report

Report circulated prior to meeting: Updates given on:

- Original training cancelled for Gamebreaker/Video Equipment. However, training is still available to NGBs. NPUA need to understand the criteria for those suitable to be trained. **Action JG to discuss with AM**

Matters arising: EHUC suggested that a performance plan needed for UMs with GB potential/eligibility similar development 'panels as umpires.

## 7. Strategy

### a) Minimum Level Requirements for Umpiring League Hockey

EHUC reviewed the LI award and is working towards the following proposals:

- Introduce a Candidate Registration Form by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 (brings in line with other awards). This will facilitate the use of 'official' candidates being able to umpire league matches. Candidates will be given an EH number that will be preceded by a 'C' eg C12345
- Ask all leagues to support the use of LI Candidates on leagues matches for certain levels of game. Likelihood that insurers will require all matches to be officiated by qualified/candidate umpires by 2010.
- Support needed from the EH board to amend wording of insurance policy from qualified umpires preferred, to qualified/candidate umpires required by 2010
- Extend the period for Candidates from 12 to 24 months, effective 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008
- Introduce a syllabus for assessing LI umpires aimed at mentors/assessors in September 2008. Course content to be developed to include what is expected of a LI in a game
- Amend the Theory part of the LI course to have 30 rules based questions, and 10 which demonstrate an understanding of the game by September 2008

### b) HUA Affiliation

Feedback from the consultation paper was reviewed by EHUC.

The committee reviewed each set of responses to the questionnaire sent out on HUA Affiliation individually. Although this was time consuming, the committee felt that the feelings of those groups that responded should be considered carefully.

The committee recognise that all participants in hockey should be members of (or affiliated to) England Hockey in some way. The feedback made it clear that the majority of HUAs are already affiliated to England Hockey by virtue of being a constitutional part of the respective Hockey Association. The feedback also made it clear that some of those HUAs would wish to affiliate directly as an HUA, if they had the opportunity to, in order to benefit from the privileges of such direct affiliation (e.g. speaking and voting at England Hockey meetings).

The proposals allow for HUAs to affiliate directly - should they wish to do so - but has no other implications for those HUAs that are already affiliated. It would also allow those HUAs which are not formerly affiliated (by virtue of not being a constituted part of a Hockey Association) to affiliate at a cost which is far more realistic than to affiliate as a "club", which is the only current alternative.

This may become even more important should England Hockey **require** that all people participating in the sport need to be members of the NGB in the future.

As a result, it was agreed to make the proposal for HUA affiliation to the England Hockey Board.

The decisions on this subject had to be made at this meeting, due to the time requirements on getting EH Board approval and subsequent inclusion in the AGM, should the EH Board decide that this is needed. The committee still welcome further questionnaire feedback from those who asked for more time to provide responses.

Feedback to date:

50% of those returning the survey were in favour of HUA affiliation - directly or via HAs

25% were undecided or needed more time to consider

25% were against HUA affiliation, or which half feared that umpires would be affiliating twice – as a player and an umpire, which is not intended to be the case

**Action: LP to write to thank respondents and offer those who had meetings in December the opportunity to reply by 15<sup>th</sup> January.**

Following additional feedback, LP/JN to include in findings and submit to S Munday for EH board review by 20<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **c) More Umpire Coaches – Standards Review**

Coaching will form part of the Performance Plan for EH. The L3 coach award will be amended to reflect more generic coaching requirements. Modules will be incorporated that will help measure real coaching abilities. The format will then be cascaded down into the L2 and L1 award syllabus. The review group is currently working with Wales and Scotland so that the course can be used across boarders, and be endorsed as part of the GB framework. The group, consisting of Sandy Richards, Jane Powell, Anne Baker and JN will meet early February 08. EHUC will be updated regularly.

NPUA is currently reviewing the L3 coach list, and will identify panels based on experience/ability.

Umpire Managing was discussed. This area also needs some attention/resourcing. **Action LP to discuss appointing criteria with NPUA.**

#### **d) Strategy – Indoor award**

The meeting thanked Rob Jenkins(RJ)and James O'Hara (JO'H) for their continued work on this project so far. The documents produced for awards criteria to be reviewed and amendments circulated to EHUC **Action DL In addition, BB and MA agreed to review the course syllabus as 'non' Indoor umpires and feedback to next meeting**

#### **e) Updated RYUAG Plans**

All RYUAGs have submitted updated plans.

- East: Action plan being progressed. Early days
- Midlands: Very advanced with strong organisation
- North: Youth Panel and RYUAG working closely together
- South: Have received grant funding. Have organised successful coach/mentor days across region
- West: JN indicated that she hope to be invited to next meeting to help progress plans

National RYUAG meeting was desired, maybe at start of 2008/09 season. EHUC to construct letter to RYUAGs re sharing of best practice and also to ask which topics they would like covered in a joint meeting. **Action MA**

#### **f) NYUPL**

NYUPL reports now available for RYUAGs to see on line on the NPUA website. NPUA thanked for this excellent tool for the Regions.  
Shirts for NYUPL have been sourced from Tempest. NPUA have facilitated the collecting of sizes from NYUPL. Shirts to be issued on appointment only.

**11. Correspondence – none**

- Received form Julie Fuller re Level One Courses. Discussion took place as part of LI debate.  
**Action JN to acknowledge**

**12. AOB**

L2 pages on the website need updating. Regions to be asked for current list of L2 assessors/coordinators. **Action JN**

**13. Date of next meetings:**

Per request from NPUA and committee members, meetings have been arranged during school breaks where possible, with a variety of days of the week.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February, MK  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May, MK  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July, Bisham Abbey  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, MK  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, MK

Meeting closed at 17:00