

VOLUME 15
NOVEMBER 1995

Chairman's Letter

Dear Member,

Marge thanks those of you who have written to her - it really is good to have those questions coming in. Please keep them coming - some of us know what Marge gets like when her writing hand becomes idle!

Temptation lurks for me to make some comment about the wonderful weather we have had so far this season, or a reference to getting a suntan whilst umpiring in October, but that would be to tempt fate so I won't say anything.

The First XI Tournament was a qualified success. It was good to see all teams with umpires (is this a first?) ,the weather was great and the hockey seemed to be fun, with a good final. It's a great pity that so few teams take part - I know the Avon Committee are concerned that the tournament is becoming non viable. If you know why your club does not enter the tournament please let me know. It could be just too many things for your team players or it could be reasons which can be looked into.

We have two coaching days for Level 1 umpires - one in December and one on 14th January. If you are interested please contact **Liz Powell**.

If you know anyone wishing to take their Level 1, please ask them to contact me to reserve a place on the next PUA course to be run after Christmas. It is considered now, that candidates for Level 1 should complete the coaching, theory and practical offered by the PUA as a prerequisite for taking Level 1. There are no courses planned other than the PUA. Anyone who has passed the PUA and would like some extra coaching towards their Level 1 should contact either myself or Liz Powell.

COUNTY JUNIOR GAMES. If you would care to umpire U16 or U18 A or B Junior County games please contact me as soon as possible. These are great games to umpire.

I hope you season continues to go well - please contact your "mentor" or myself if we can be of any help.

Best Wishes

John

HELP!

Your committee has agreed to purchase for all members an enamel lapel badge which you can wear with pride whilst umpiring.

We are at present trying to come up with a design for this. Should you have any ideas, and have an artistic bent, please, please, please put them down on paper and let any member of the committee have them as soon as possible.

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RULES UPDATE

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a letter from All England Women's Hockey Association with a copy of a letter from the F.I.H. attached. We have been requested to forward this information to as many umpires as possible. In an effort to do this we have sent copies of these letters to your club secretaries and asked for them to be forwarded to all umpires. Should this information have gone astray perhaps you would do the honours for us with regard to umpires at your club.

A further directive has been received from AEWHA regarding the gauntlet manufactured by Monarch which enables the stick to remain attached. You will remember that earlier in the season this gauntlet was considered to be illegal, however this has now been rescinded and the gauntlet is now permitted on an experimental basis.

WHISTLES

At our last open meeting pealess whistles were available for sale.

Unfortunately the demand was under estimated and as a result several of you were disappointed.

A further supply of these whistles (Acme Tornado) are now available at £1.40 each anybody requiring one should contact **Pete Lovell** who will be glad to assist.

DEAR MARGE

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Dear Marge,

How do I cope with another umpire that doesn't know the correct positioning and keeps blowing in my area and misses everything in theirs.

Should I stop the game and speak to them, wait until half time and then speak to them or say nothing and speak to the Umpires' Association about coaching required.

Wally

Dear Wally,

This is always a difficult one. One supposes that you and your colleague discussed areas of control etc. prior to the game and agreed as to the correct procedures. Assuming this to be the case you have two options depending as to how long has gone.

If you are not long into the half and your colleague's actions are affecting your control, you need to stop time and meet with your colleague, ensuring that no players can over hear, and politely but firmly remind them of what you discussed regarding areas of control prior to the game.

However if you are nearing half-time it would probably be better to do this during the half-time interval again ensuring there are no players nearby who may over hear you.

Whichever way I would hope that your colleague would take heed of the advice, and hopefully a much better game will ensue. One word of warning, don't be tempted under any circumstances to "play your colleague at their own game", this could only lead to greater conflict between you and loss of confidence by the players.

Should the same thing happen in the second half you may feel it necessary to write to the Umpires' Association who will then discuss the matter at a Committee meeting to decide the next course of action.

Dear Marge,

Could you clarify the following - it happened at the end of last season.

A penalty stroke was awarded, the goalkeeper was in position as was the striker. I instructed both players, but before I blew my whistle the striker played the ball. The goalkeeper saved the attempted goal.

Question - Do I blow and make the striker take it again, since she moved before the whistle, or should I penalise her by accepting the situation when a save was made. If the striker retook the stroke a goal may be scored, so I would be in favour of keeping with the situation as it happened.

"Interested but anonymous"

Dear Umpire,

Rule 15.3.1.f on page 27 of your new rule book states that :-

The player may not take the stroke until the controlling umpire confirms that both the stroke taker and the goalkeeper are ready and **has blown the whistle**.

Therefore because the striker took the stroke prior to you blowing your whistle, she has broken this rule and the penalty for doing so is a free hit to the defence 16 yards in front of the centre of the goal-line.

Dear Marge,

What happens if the ball strikes the corner post ?

Dear Umpire,

This is one that happens very rarely and therefore I can understand your confusion if indeed it does happen to you.

The corner flag is part of the field of play and therefore should the ball rebound into play the decision is play on. However should the ball rebound out of play it depends upon which line it eventually crosses and who last played it.

If it crosses the side-line it is a hit in on the side-line against the team who last played the ball.

If it crosses the back-line and was last played by an attacker it is a hit out to the defence. However if it is last played by a defender you have to decide whether this was intentional or not. If it was intentional it is a penalty corner, if not it is a long corner.

Dear Marge,

An attacking player received the ball, on side, shoots at goal and her momentum carried her off the back line. The ball hits the goalkeeper in the chest. As this happens the player who went over the back line returns to the pitch, sees the ball going forward from the goalkeeper, collects it, shoots and scores. I disallowed the goal, stating that the player was offside. The attacking team claimed that with the rule change, offside was now identical to offside in football. i.e. When a defender touches the ball this plays everyone on side. I said this was not the case in hockey and gave a free hit to the defence. Was I correct ?

Dear Umpire,

I regret to say that your decision was in fact wrong you should have awarded a goal. However it is not for the reasons the attacking team claimed, you cannot be played on side when a defender touches the ball.

A player can only be offside at the moment when the ball is passed or played to them by a member of their team. Therefore in this case the player who last played the ball on her team was the scorer herself, despite the fact that she went ahead of the ball, she could not be offside and so a goal should have been awarded.

Dear Marge,

Recently I noticed a coach instructing one of his defenders at a short corner on the umpires side of the pitch to stand behind the backline near the edge of the circle. ie. nearer the corner flag than the ball. Is this legal?

Dear Umpire,

All the rule states is that the defenders must be wholly behind the backline and at least 5 yards from the ball. Therefore yes it is legal. However I cannot see the benefits of defending a short corner from such a position, because surely any resultant action will take place at the top of the circle and the defender has placed herself further away from this area, perhaps at some time a coach will explain it to me.

Should you have any questions for Marge, no matter how trivial, please send them to any member of the committee.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
22/10/95	Avon 1st XI Tournament	Clifton College
22/10/95	2nd XI Invitation Tournament	Jersey
15-25/11/95	Olympic Qualifying Tournament (GB.)	South Africa
26/11/95	U18 Schools Tournament	Cheltenham
26/11/95	U16 Schools Tournament	Clifton College
12/12/95	U16 Indoor Schools	Zoned
28-30/12/95	U21, U18, U16 Territorials	Sheffield
28/01/96	Avon Veterans Tournament	Clifton College
02-04/02/96	Indoor U16 Schools Championships	Crystal Palace
02-04/02/96	Indoor U19 Club/Schools Championships	Crystal Palace
17-18/02/96	Indoor European Club Championships	Bratislava
25/02/96	U14 County Tournament	Clifton College
03/03/96	West Mini Hockey Finals	Edgarley
06/03/96	British Aerospace U16 Schools Championships	Milton Keynes
07/03/96	British Aerospace U18 Schools Championships	Milton Keynes
09-10/03/96	West County Championships	Bournemouth
10/03/96	Avon 2nd XI Tournament	Clifton College
24/03/96	U19 Clubs Tournament	Clifton College
30-31/03/96	U18 & U16 Home Countries Tournaments	Milton Keynes
19-21/04/96	National League Play Offs	Milton Keynes
27-28/04/96	National County Championships	Bournemouth
04/05/96	West Vets Tournament	Bournemouth
11/05/96	U19 Club Championships	Milton Keynes
18/05/96	National Veterans Championships	Milton Keynes
12/05/96	West AGM & ALM	
24-27/05/96	European Club Championships	
13-16/06/96	4 Nations Tournament	Milton Keynes
20/07-04/08	Olympic Games	Atlanta
25-31/08/96	U21 European Cup	Cardiff

Should any member have an event that they feel would be of interest to other members, please do not hesitate to send details to any member of the committee for inclusion in this newsletter.