

## VOLUME 16

FEBRUARY 1995

### Chairman's Letter

Dear Member,

The last lap has been started for the end of yet another season which has again been filled with activity. I should like to thank Liz and Richard Powell and Pete Lovell for the coaching day they organised for our members in January. I should also like to thank the four clubs, Bath, Redland, Weston and Yate for providing First XI teams for the day. It was a highly successful day - two umpires were put forward for Reserve for Premier Division, and one of those umpired their first Premier Division game on February 10th.

We have some names for a further day - and if you would care to have a day of coaching please let any member of the committee know; all it costs is your time and commitment.

Our congratulations go to Pete Lovell, who was selected to umpire at the U21 Territorials in Sheffield, and has since been selected to go forward towards umpiring National League; we wish him well.

Summer League approaches and again I ask you to let us know if you would like to receive any coaching on one of these games - or just an assessment.

Many of you have taken the trouble to contact us to say that you feel the "Six Game" system seems to be working well. Two clubs expressed concern earlier that some umpires in their clubs were having difficulty completing their 'six'. We have also received two letters suggesting that a 'score' should be given relating to how good - or otherwise - an umpire was. We can only repeat that as a committee we were pleased that the AGM felt this was not in the best interests of either umpires or players. Where it was tried - both in Avon and other counties - it has not been successful. We do have a procedure that players/clubs can follow if they are unhappy with an umpire. However, our AGM approaches and should you wish to suggest alterations or improvements, either let me know or come along to the AGM in May. This is also the time to voice your thoughts on any matters on umpiring so book the date.

Best Wishes

John

## PENALTY STROKES

You've blown the whistle and given a penalty stroke, you've never given one of those before, what do you do next? It's happened to us all, so here are a few pointers to assist you.

1. Assuming this is a normal game and no special competition rules apply, both umpires must stop their watch.
2. Locate the ball and hand it to the stroke taker to place on the spot.
3. Take time to see that all the non participating players are beyond the 25 yard line and are not in the direct vision of the defending keeper. Should the keeper be somewhat annoyed by your decision, as is sometimes the case, this will give her time to calm down and take up her position without potential conflict with yourself.
4. Ensure your colleague has arrived and is in position and ready. (See Fig. 1)
5. Take up a position about 5 yards behind the striker and about 4 yards to her right, so that you are able to see the ball, the striker and the goalkeeper without moving your head, and that you are not in the direct vision of either player. (See Fig. 1)
6. Having satisfied yourself that everybody is in position instruct the striker and keeper as to the routine that is about to happen. e.g.. " *I will ask you both in turn if you are ready, I will expect an audible response, I will then blow my whistle.* "
7. Carry out the routine as you have described. Should any of the routine not go as it was described (e.g.. there is no audible response from either player), stop and restart the routine, including item 6, from the beginning.
8. The stroke having been taken and before making your decision take a cursory glance to your colleague for confirmation. Should your colleague contradict your decision, go towards them and discuss the situation privately, but remember as the controlling umpire **you** have the final say.
9. Signal your decision.
10. Restart the game dependant upon the result of the penalty stroke. i.e. Pass back from the centre of the field if a goal has been scored, or a push or hit by a defender 16 yards in front of the centre of the goal-line. Please remember to check that your colleague has regained their position and is ready, and don't forget to restart your watch.

# DEAR MARGE

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Dear Marge,

I find it difficult to decide who has offended if the ball rises dangerously when two players are going for the ball. It is terribly difficult to decide who has actually caused the ball to lift and so created the danger. Do you have any advice?

Dear Umpire,

This can be a difficult one for all of us, especially when both sticks reach the ball at the same time. What usually happens with the less experienced umpire is, not knowing which way to give the free hit, they will give nothing and play on. This is not a good thing, as we all know that a lifted ball between players is extremely dangerous.

The best advice I can give you is to blow your whistle quickly should this situation arise, to avoid any danger, and if in doubt as to which way to give the free hit, I have a little saying that might help - "If in doubt, defence out". That is to say give the free hit to the defending team, but you must be consistent in both halves thus avoiding the frustrations of the players.

Dear Marge,

On Saturday I insisted that a player who wished to substitute for an absent goalkeeper, wore pads and kickers as well as a helmet. The players said that she need not wear all of this equipment, only the helmet.

Checking my new rules, Page 9 Rule 5.2b, I see that the players were right. But I am not happy about players standing in front of goal without the further protection of pads, kickers, gauntlets, body protectors, etc. Surely "dangerous play" would come in to force when any shot not along the ground was taken?

Can we not insist a player in goal wears all the protective padding that is available?

Dear Umpire,

As you quite rightly point out, the players were right, all the rules require at present is that one player on either side wears full protective headgear. Should the ball be lifted towards the goal and it is not dangerous to other

players on route this player should not be treated any differently because she is not wearing all the protective equipment available to her, and the shot should not be adjudged dangerous. Much the same situation applies should an attacker beat the goalkeeper and a defender puts herself on the line to protect the goal.

I agree this is not an ideal situation, and perhaps one day the rule board will look at this, with a view to changing it, but until then all we are able to do is advise accordingly.

Dear Marge,

While umpiring last weekend, I was constantly confused by my colleague who did not signal correctly, especially at 16 yard hits, I often thought he had given a long corner as he only used one arm each time. On other occasions he did not signal at all and I was left wondering which way the hit or sideline ball was going. This lack of signals or incorrect signal giving, left me stranded on two or three occasions and having to sprint several yards to catch up with play, as I had wrongly guessed the outcome.

Please pass on to fellow members the advice to signal clearly at every opportunity, as it can effect the positioning of their colleague. If umpires are having to make decisions whilst sprinting, or looking up the field after a very quick counter attack, these decisions may well be incorrect.

Thank You

Dear Umpire,

Your advice I'm sure will be duly noted by fellow members. I hope in this instance you took the opportunity to speak to your colleague, either at half time or at the end of the match, to express your confusion regarding the lack of, or incorrect signals, and I hope they were able to gain from the experience.

Of course it must have been confusing to you, but it must also have been confusing to the players, and in fact, an unfair advantage may have been gained by either team.

So I reiterate that correct signalling is vitally important for the benefit of all concerned.

Dear Marge,

Many thanks for providing advice/definition with reference to the ball travelling a yard at penalty corners. However I do have a further case of "unease" - this time on offside.

Rule 12 is specific in it's definition of a player being in an offside position - particularly '...passed or played to them by a member of their team...!'

I recently had a circumstance where an attacker was not in an offside position when the ball was played towards her by a colleague: The ball was intercepted by a defender who then passed to another defender who in turn played the ball back to her defending colleague; that defender was not expecting the return ball and it passed her by, straight to the original attacker whose momentum had taken her to an 'offside' (?) position.

I decided on offside, as I could not believe the intention was to let such a potential advantage be created (and of course a player cannot be played onside by an opponent). The players accepted without quibble. Interpretations do not cover this scenario.

Offside or not? The ball was not passed or played to them by a member of their team while the player was in her final position.

Dear Umpire,

Your decision was in fact incorrect, as you quite rightly point out Rule 12 is quite specific in that a player can only be adjudged offside "**at the moment** the ball is passed or played to them by a member of **their** team", therefore in the instance described the player was onside at this juncture.

I am glad to hear however that the players accepted your decision without quibble, it really does show that in complex situations such as you describe players sometimes can also be confused, and I believe wherever possible players should attend a talk on the rules, so that they at least have a knowledge of the difficulties and complexities that face umpires today.

Should any of your teams be interested in this please do not hesitate to contact your mentor or any member of your committee who I am sure will be only too pleased to help and advise. These talks only take about 2 hours and are normally thoroughly enjoyed by all, speakers and attendees alike, perhaps you would like to suggest it to your team.

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

## **Annual General Meeting**

*Please note the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Avon County Women's Hockey Umpires' Association will take place on **Wednesday 8th May 1996** at Clifton College Sports Pavilion, Beggar Bush Lane.*

*Official notification, Agenda and Nomination forms are enclosed with this Newsletter*

*Please make every effort to attend*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
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
04-08/04/96	U18 & U16 4 Nations Tournaments	Paris
10-12/04/96	Universities Home Nations Final	Swansea
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
<b>08/05/95</b>	<b>AGM.</b>	<b>Clifton College</b>
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.***