

VOLUME 21

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Chairman's Letter

Dear Member,

Those of you who were at the recent Open meeting will already know of my latest news, but I make no apology for repeating myself.

Thank you to those of you who were kind enough to send get well cards or sent messages of good will during my recent spell in hospital, at times like these it's knowing you have friends out there that really keep you going. A special thank you to every member of the committee who held the fort admirably during my absence.

I'm now on the slow road to recovery, however whilst in hospital my consultant informed me that I have a very weak chest and would be well advised to treat it with care. It is because I value my health that I therefore have to announce my retirement from umpiring, getting cold and damp on a hockey pitch could now have quite serious consequences. This will also limit the amount of coaching and/or assessing I am able to do, but will wherever possible continue to be involved in the theory, and the administration of the Association. I do intend when the weather allows to watch as much hockey as possible, so should you see me wandering around the pitch or sat in my car nearby, please do not hesitate to come over for a chat, I'd welcome it.

Because it is a slow road to recovery, and a certain amount of convalescing will be necessary, your committee at my request have appointed John Burr as acting Chairman until I feel able to give the position the attention it deserves. I'm sure you will offer John the support he deserves.

Thank you to all of you who have offered support, encouragement and have shown confidence in me over the last 12 years, it has been most welcome.

Before I sign off I would like to wish everybody out there umpiring a successful and enjoyable season. Please don't forget that one rule that is not in the rule book but is probably the most important one of all. **USE YOUR COMMON SENSE !!**

Best Wishes

Peter

PREPARATION FOR A MATCH

Arrive in good time to check out the venue, change and prepare mentally and physically for the game. Most National League umpires meet at least 1 hour before their game; Premier League umpires usually give themselves 30-40 minutes to prepare. For games where you are familiar with the ground and the teams, **arrive at least 20 minutes before the pushback**. This will give you time to greet your colleague and make the necessary checks and decisions about the game.

1. Chatting with the players and spectators is a very pleasant way of passing the time but not profitable from the umpires point of view! You need to be aware of any problem areas or things that could give rise for you to make an unusual decision. Take this time to **check out the pitch and it's surrounds with your colleague**. Check the lines on the pitch, the nets for holes, that the goals are in line with each other and touching the back line. Check the area around the pitch, is there enough room for you and the spectators?
2. Physical preparation for the game is vital if you are to avoid injury. **Jog, stretch all parts of the body and keep warm once you are warm**. Jill Clarke missed the final in an International Tournament due to a pulled muscle, so even top umpires need to take care over their physical preparation. Nothing is worse than aggravating an injury because there is no one else to umpire at this late stage! while jogging around or checking the nets, look at the teams: check out their colours, their G/K's, their practices.
3. **Have you all your equipment?** Give your pockets or bag a final check and write out your score card. Have you 2 whistles, a pencil and paper, a coin, cards, rule book, string, tape, scissors, tape, tissues and safety pins?
4. Talking with your colleagues is often a light hearted affair but try next time you meet up with a fellow aspiring umpire to talk through not just who is going to time and which end you want to be, but to **discuss all aspects of the game** where there may be a discrepancy in decision making. Players want consistency decision making so the more you talk, the less inconsistent you will be as a team. What to talk about..... no particular order.
5. Colours.....Timing and ends..... Lifted balls - deliberate / accidental..... Use of cards - when and why. Lifted free hits..... Players not 5 yards in 25yard area..... Goalkeepers - everything..... Penalty strokes.Areas of responsibility / grey areas.... Quick free hits.... Free hits in the wrong place.... Substitutions. Penalty corners / defence problems.
6. Finally - **what do you say to the captains?** Introduce yourself and your colleague, complete the toss and decide on ends etc., the most constructive thing to say then is "Have a good game". Do not say anything else at this stage. Responsibilities can be mentioned when and where necessary during the game. Going into details can be counterproductive and unless the captains ask for clarification, I would advise you to say nothing other than to wish both sides well.
7. If the teams are warming up and practising while you and your colleague are checking, warming up and talking together then they see you as **a team and treat you with respect**. If you or your colleague turns up late and shouts "Nice to see you and how's the family?" as you wander onto the pitch you will take some time to gain that respect from the players.

Psychology plays a big part in umpiring and it starts as soon as you arrive, so be prepared.

E.J.Powell 23/07/97

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
05/10/97	Preliminary Award	Clifton College
19/10/97	2nd XI invitation tournament	Newquay
24 - 26/10/97	U16 / U18 Regional Tournament	Abingdon
29/10/97	Level 1 theory session	
01/11/97	England Seniors Televised game	Milton Keynes
09/11/97	Level 1 Coaching	Clifton College
23/11/97	West Bae U16 Schools	Bath University
23/11/97	West Bae U18 Schools	Clifton College
25/12/97	CHRISTMAS DAY (Day Off !!)	Who cares
27/12/97	U21 Regional Tournament	Milton Keynes
23/01/98	European Nations Indoor Cup	Spain
08/02/98	West U19 County Tournament	Clifton College
01/03/98	Bae U18 Schools Championships	Milton Keynes
01/03/98	West Mini Hockey Championships	Clifton College
02/03/98	Bae U16 Schools Championships	Milton Keynes
08/03/98	West U14 County Championships	Clifton College
15/03/98	West U19 Clubs Championships	Clifton College
21/03/98	West County Championships	Various
22/03/98	West U16 County Championships	Clifton College
28 - 29/03/98	West Vets Championships	Bournemouth
09/04/98	U16/U18 European Six Nations Tournament	Milton Keynes
18/04/98	Inter League Tournament	Milton Keynes
02 - 03/05/98	West County Championships	Bournemouth
09/05/98	U19 Club Championships	Milton Keynes
10/05/98	Cup / Plate / U15 Cup Finals	Milton Keynes
17/05/98	Vets Finals	Milton Keynes
20/05/98	World Cup	Utrecht
23 - 24/05/98	County Championships Finals	South

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.

Those of you who have not yet paid this season's subscriptions will have with this Newsletter an application form. To receive your new rulebook and to remain a member, please complete and return as soon as possible.

Please see below Clifton's outstanding home fixtures in the National League, should you be free to do so, you will find it extremely helpful to your own umpiring to watch some of these matches.

CLIFTON FIXTURES 1997/8

15/11/97	Clifton	v	Doncaster
29/11/97	Clifton	v	Sutton Coldfield
06/12/97	Clifton	v	Trojans
14/02/97	Clifton	v	Slough
28/02/97	Clifton	v	Ipswich
14/03/97	Clifton	v	Hightown

Your committee have recently made the following appointments:

Avon 1st XI Cup Final - Richard Powell & Lesley Hughes

Avon 2nd XI Cup Final - Liz Powell & Steve Cox

Congratulations and thanks to those appointed

1997/98 Committee

Chairman	Pete Lovell
Secretary	John James
Treasurer	Val Harding
Committee	John Burr
	Liz Powell
	Richard Powell
	Janet Wilson

REMINDER

There has been very little response to the Level 1 theory session to be held on 29th October 1997.

Should you know of anybody at your club who should be taking this, if they haven't already done so, ask them to get in touch with John James at their earliest convenience.

THANK YOU

This is your Newsletter and any comments or views you may have would be gratefully received, please send them to any member of the Committee.