

VOLUME 23

MAY 1998

Chairman's Letter

Dear Member,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the successes of both Sharon Gibson and Steve Alger in progressing to the Level 2 register. Both performed exceptionally well in their test games and I feel sure will be a great asset to the world of umpiring. **Well done both of you !!**

I am glad to announce that an initial meeting with the Men's association, held last month, proved to be a step in the right direction. It has been agreed that John James would hold a common Level 1 register. The men are also to adopt our policy with regard to the six match cards. A further meeting has been scheduled for July, let's hope we can find even more common ground.

The end of yet another season looms and by the time you read this Newsletter most of the vital games will have taken place, my congratulations go to those teams and to those umpires who have done well this year. Remember doing well as an umpire does not necessarily mean progressing to a higher level, but to be happy with your own performance throughout the season, we are our own best judges.

The **AGM** is to take place at Clifton College on 20th May and I hope as many of you as possible will make the effort to attend. You will have all received our recent letter and, although the response is promising there is always room for more of you to help out. So don't be shy get in touch with any of the committee to chat about how you might be of assistance.

Finally Summer League is again upon us... and our sincere thanks go to Lesley Bates, who has agreed to organise the umpires and coaches for this. The main purpose of the league this season, is to test and reassess umpires, but should you feel you would like a little more coaching, or just want a game, then please let Lesley or any member of the Committee know, we will do our best to accommodate you.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Best Wishes

Peter

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
02/05/98	West County Championships	Bournemouth
03/05/98	West County Championships	Bournemouth
09/05/98	U19 Clubs Championships	Milton Keynes
10/05/98	AEWHA Cup Final	Milton Keynes
10/05/98	AEWHA Plate Final	Milton Keynes
10/05/98	AEWHA U15 Cup Final	Milton Keynes
17/05/98	Vets Finals	Milton Keynes
20/05/98	AGM	Clifton College
20/05/98	World Cup	Utrecht
23/05/98	County Championships Finals	South
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.

Appointments

Your committee have recently made the following appointments:

Avon 1st XI Cup Semi Finals	BAC v Yate	Richard Powell
		Steve Alger
	Weston v Redland	Mike Haynes
		Steve Alger
Avon 2nd XI Cup Semi Finals	Firebrands v BAC	John James
		Bob Callicott
	Yate v Weston	Jenny Mayo
		David Parry-Jones
Avon 1st XI Cup Final	Yate v Redland	Mike Haynes
		Lesley Bates
Avon 2nd XI Cup Final	Firebrands v Yate	Sharon Gibson
		Jayne Mills

Congratulations and thanks go to those concerned.

RULE CHANGES FOR NEXT SEASON

The Hockey Rules Board have announced the following changes to the rules for next season, which will come into effect from **1st September 1998**.

The mandatory experiment regarding **No offside** will become an official rule.

The mandatory experiment requiring **all** players to be five yards from free hits, hit ins and corners, except for the taker has been withdrawn. We will revert to the former rule which requires **all** players other than the taker to be five yards away **only** when a free hit is taken by the attacking team within five yards of the circle. At all other free hits or dead ball situations within the 25 yard area only members of the **opposing** team need be five yards away.

Substitutions, except in the case of an injured defending goalkeeper are **prohibited** during penalty corners.

The mandatory experiment requiring the completion of penalty corners at half and full time is to be continued for another year.

Distance references in the Rule Book will be presented in metric measurements.

AGM

This year's AGM has been set for **20th May 1998** at **Clifton College** at **7.30pm**

You will already have had notification of this together with proposal forms.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

1997/98 Committee

Chairman Pete Lovell

Secretary John James

Treasurer Val Harding

Committee John Burr

Liz Powell

Richard Powell

Janet Wilson

Dear Marge

Your questions answered

Dear Marge,

Recently in a game I umpired, a colleague with whom I had officiated many times before was quite happy to speak to me prior to the game. I blew for a foul when play was coming towards me, something we agreed on prior to the match, but my colleague stood and shook their head as if in disagreement.

At half time they would not speak to me, so it was impossible to discuss the situation in question.

Throughout the game my colleague was making rude comments to their team with regard to my ability, these comments were also overheard by my team. Following the game some of my team's opponents, who had lost the match, made comment to me with regard to my ability, I felt this was unjust and was particularly upsetting because there were 2 qualified umpires playing who congratulated me on my umpiring. I must point out that I umpired the corresponding away fixture without any complaint from our opponents, but then they did win that game.

Again my colleague would not speak to me. What, if anything could I have done?

Dear member,

A difficult situation to say the least.

If your colleague would not speak to you at the end of the game there was very little you could have done at this juncture, short of writing to the Association with a formal complaint. The other option would have been to have singled out the opponent's captain and asked her to discuss with you and your teams captain the match, making sure you put your point of view, but this would only have been possible if both captains were willing to take part in such a discussion.

However I do feel that the whole unsavoury situation might have been averted if you had taken the following steps :-

During your pre match discussion with your colleague, make it clear that you will meet up at half time and full time when it might be appropriate to

discuss any decisions that there may be confusion over. This may have made your colleague more affable to talk with you.

Another option would have been to have stopped time when your colleague had stood shaking their head and to have gone over to them to further discuss the decision. It may have been that your colleague had seen something completely different, but I do

not advocate standing and shaking your head in these situations, umpires are there to support one another after all.

I can only hope that you have put this unfortunate experience behind you and should you meet up with this umpire again, you are able to umpire the match together as a team.

Dear Marge

Whilst umpiring a match recently, an umpire on an adjoining pitch blew their whistle rather loudly. The play on my pitch at the time was within the circle at my end. On hearing the whistle all the players except one on my pitch stopped playing, this one player took a shot at goal and scored?? I decided that the whistle on the other pitch had had such an effect on my game that I did not award a goal but gave a bully. Everyone seemed to be happy with this decision except the player who "scored". Was I right?

Dear Umpire

There doesn't appear to be anything in the rule book to cover this scenario and indeed we encourage players to play to the whistle. However, from your letter it would appear that players from both sides, in fact all players except one, thought you had blown your whistle for an offence and therefore stopped. Surely this is when we use the most important rule of all, Common Sense. To stop the play and award a bully at the top of the circle was without doubt the best decision.

Should the player who felt aggrieved continue to do so, this is where I would engage the assistance of the captain, assuming this player was not the captain. It would seem that all other players were happy with the decision and therefore the captain should be able to use her influence to calm down her player.

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

REMINDER

Six match cards must be completed and returned to John James by **June 30th 1998** at the latest if you wish to remain on the League register for next season.

No further reminders will be issued.

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.