

VOLUME 24

AUGUST 1998

Chairman's Letter

Dear Member,

A few months ago we wrote to you all to inform you that our Association had reached a crisis point. The response we received from that letter was truly amazing! So many of you telephoned us with your support and we received many offers of help.

The result has been that we have a long list of people offering various kinds of help, and the Committee has three new members bringing much needed 'fresh blood' and ideas to proceedings. We are all really very grateful for the support we have received. Thank you! We welcome onto the Committee Gill Wheadon, Malcolm Kingshott, and Bob Pearce.

I should like to take the opportunity to thank the three people who stood down this year.

Peter Lovell was one of the founder members of the Association and served the Association well for nine years. As you know he has been fighting illness for the last year and I am delighted to say he has started umpiring again!! His doctors told him he would never be able to - Peter has won their admiration at proving them wrong. Peter will still be around for assessing and coaching and will be organising the Prem. umpires for the West this coming season. We wish you every success Peter, and thank you for all you did for the Committee and members.

Janet Wilson joined the Committee for one year - her job development requires her greater attention for a couple of years and we wish her well with that. Janet is still going to help with coaching and PUA. Janet made a very real contribution to the Committee helping to bring a sense of reality to proceedings - we shall miss that!

Richard Powell was also a founder member of our Association, and remains our auditor. Richard gained his level 2 Coaching award last year and will still be helping with our coaching programme. We thank him also for the valuable contribution he has made over the years.

Each County body has appointed a Disciplinary Officer and Deputy. Avon have appointed Richard Powell and Lynda Watts respectively to these posts. We trust they will not have much to do!

Within this Newsletter are details of our Open Evening in September, and Marge is back off her hols! There is also a letter about umpiring matches without a goalkeeper.

Please note this carefully. In an era when more people seem prepared to make claims for injuries etc. it is important that we do not lay ourselves open unnecessarily.

Which leads to ' Insurance ' ! I am, once again, assured by the EHA that details **WILL** be available.....soon....We will let you know as soon as we hear.

Three Avon umpires were selected by the West for coaching last month - Gill Prophet, Jayne Mills and Vicki Liechti. I understand the day was successful.

Please let me know if you would like to receive some coaching, or would like to umpire one of the junior County games next season.....indeed, contact me, or any other Committee member at any time if we can be of help.

Lastly, thank you for asking me to be your Chairman again - I look forward to helping in any way I am able.

Best Wishes for the coming season

John Burr.

1998/99 Committee

Chairman	John Burr
Secretary	John James
Treasurer	Val Harding
Committee	Malcolm Kingshott
	Bob Pearce
	Liz Powell
	Gill Wheadon

UMPIRES QUESTION TIME

An Open Meeting has been arranged for **Thursday 24th September 1998** at **Clifton College** at 7.30pm

The theme for the evening will be **Umpires Question Time**.

A chance to ask those questions that you've always wanted answered. The panel for the evening will be :-

Alison Holdstock - National League Umpire

Lynda Watts - National League Delegate

Leslie Hughes - Level II Umpire

Peter Lovell - National League Umpire

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

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.

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Penalty Strokes

Yes, you've finally done it, blown your whistle and given a penalty stroke. Panic, what do you do now?

Having blown your whistle and given the correct signal, remember to stop time. Now take time out to ensure that all the players not directly involved in the taking of the stroke are beyond the 25 yard line and to the side of the pitch so as not to be in the direct vision of the goalkeeper. Now give the ball to the player taking the stroke so that she can place it on the spot. While she is doing this check that your colleague has arrived and is ready.

Now take up the **correct position**. That is about 5 yards behind and 3 yards to the right of the taker. This allows you to have both taker and goalkeeper in vision at the time the stroke is taken and allows you to make your decision with greater accuracy.

It is now advisable to tell both players concerned what is going to happen. That you will ask both players in turn that they are ready and will await a verbal response and you will then blow your whistle.

Having done this then go through the routine as you have outlined it. Should this routine be interrupted in any way e.g. the keeper merely nods and is not heard to respond you should start the routine again.

Having made your decision following the penalty stroke a cursory glance to your colleague prior to signalling is advisable. In the event of a disagreement between the two of you walk to your colleague and discuss the situation in private without the players being in hearing distance.

Finally having made your decision, and signalled it, wait for your colleague to regain their position before continuing.

Dear Marge

Your questions answered

Dear Marge,

During the recent Summer Leagues I have officiated at several games at different venues. Only once, however, had I the unfortunate luck to encounter a problem.

At the time the game was due to start the teams were incomplete so we waited for a few minutes for the rest of the players to arrive. After a small interval we, the umpires, were approached by the team captains to say that they felt we should start the game even though both teams were still short of players. We were told that both goalkeepers and some other players were missing from the teams but a start needed to be made.

My colleague and I said that we were unable to umpire a match without goalkeepers, but we were harassed so much by the players we gave in

eventually and umpired the game. The harassment started with comments such as:

"It's only a Summer League game!"

"We will know who to blame if we don't get a game!"

"Some players have travelled a long way for this game"

"People have come straight from work without refreshment to play"

- but went on to be very personal about the power going to umpires heads!

My colleague and I felt very unhappy about the attitude of the players, especially the captains of the teams. The knowledge that we were persuaded to umpire a game when we should not have done so did not sit easily with either of us.

What, Marge, could we have done in these circumstances, which would have made both the teams and the umpires feel happy with the decision not to play?

Yours,

Dear Umpire

Unfortunately, there is no easy answer to your question. It says quite clearly in the rule book that if there is not a player with a helmet to stand in as goalkeeper the game cannot go ahead. You were correct to say no - well done!

I think that the pressure brought to bear on you and your colleague was wrongly placed and I think the players ought to be ashamed of their behaviour.

The pressure should have been applied to the team captains who had not ensured that the most important player in the field was able to get to the game on time! I am sure that if clubs were questioned, they would say the role of the captain is to field a

full team for the games. Were these captains taking any blame for the non-appearance of the goalkeepers?

As umpires we can only ask the captains of teams to be aware of this rule and when goalkeepers do not appear, they do not to expect the umpires to officiate. In these days of litigation the need to understand that umpires' insurance can be nullified by officiating such games is extremely important.

Maybe there is a place for mentioning this rule to any captains you may speak to on your travels through the season. The more players are made aware of the rule the easier it should be to enforce it.

Stick to your guns next time; try to be firm and ignore any comments from players - not easy , I know!

Dear Marge,

In a recent game I umpired I gave a sixteen yard hit for the ball going off the back line from an attackers stick from a tackle close to the back line. The defence player picked up the ball and placed it deliberately inside the circle on the opposite side to where the ball had gone off and took the hit from there. I penalised her by giving a penalty corner for not taking the sixteen yard hit from about the right place.

The player was obviously distressed/upset, but did not make too much fuss at the time. However, after the game she asked me about it. I explained how I had seen the incident (as above). She said to me that as I had only raised one arm she thought it was a free hit to the defence not a sixteen yard hit, and she could therefore take it anywhere inside the circle.

Is she right?

Yours,

Dear Umpire

Yes, she is!

Sorry to bring bad news but she is correct if the scene is as you describe. A one arm signal does indicate a free hit and that free hit, if to the defence and in the circle, can be taken anywhere inside the circle **OR** at any point on a line from the infringement up to 16 yards from the back line.

A sixteen yard hit, on the other hand, has to be at a point on a line from where the ball crossed the back line up to 16 yards from the back line. To be clear about which decision you have made use **both** arms for the sixteen yard hit.

It is very common to see umpires using only one arm for the 16 yard hit, but this is incorrect and lazy! The outcome of such a mistake could have been a goal so take care in such circumstances that you are not giving a goal scoring chance to the attack when they do not deserve it.

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

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
13/09/98	U21 County Tournament	Clifton College
24/09/98	Open Meeting "Umpires Question Time"	Clifton College
23-25/10/98	U16 & U18 Regional Tournaments	Bedford
08/11/98	U19 County Tournament	Clifton College
22/11/98	U16 BAe Schools Championships	Bristol
22/11/98	U18 BAe Schools Championships	Bath
28-30/12/98	U251 Regional Tournament	
07/02/99	U15 County Tournament	Clifton College
14/02/99	U14 County Tournament	Clifton College
21/02/99	U17 County Tournament	Clifton College
28/02/99	U18 BAe Schools Finals	Milton Keynes
01/03/99	U16 BAe Schools Finals	Milton Keynes
07/03/99	Mini Hockey	Clifton College
14/03/99	U19 Club Championships	Bath
10-11/04/99	Veterans Championships	Bournemouth
01-02/05/99	County Championships	Bournemouth
08/05/99	Veterans Championship Finals	Milton Keynes
15/05/99	U19 Club Championship Finals	Milton Keynes
16/05/99	Cup/Plate/U15 Cup Finals	Milton Keynes
16/05/99	Mini Hockey Finals	
21-24/05/99	European Club Championships	
22-23/05/99	County Championship Finals	

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.

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REMINDER

Membership subscriptions are now overdue. Anyone still not paid up will not have received a new rules book and will have a renewal form with this Newsletter. Please complete this and return to Val Harding as soon as possible. Val will then forward your new rule book.