

**VOLUME 25**  
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A very happy and prosperous New Year to all our members

**Chairman's Letter**

Dear Member,

Here's hoping you've all had a very good Christmas.

Halfway through the season already! Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself!

From the Association point of view it has been the quietest season, so far, that I can remember. We have had very few clubs enter the various EHA cup and tournaments; we have had only one set of Junior County games against Hampshire; and for the first year ever no club Preliminary Umpire Award course. The only PUA has been for the PGCE students at Bristol University. Our thanks to coaches Liz and Richard Powell, Lynda Watts and Janet Wilson for their time.

If your club want any help with organising a PUA please contact Bob Pearce who is organising these courses this year.[ Tel. 0117-9622139 ]

The Junior County games were umpired by Jayne Mills, Gill Prophet, Anne Begg, Janet Wilson, Sam Russe, and Lynda Watts. Thank you to you all.

The telephone has gone very quiet! Remember, we pass your queries on to Marge and we love the discussions.

The Open Evening was a great success and our thanks go to Pete Lovell, Alison Holdstock, Lynda Watts, and Leslie Hughes for fielding your questions so well. Discussion on some topics continues to this day!

Regrettably there seems to be an increase in the number of cards being given this season and our main article is in response to several of you who have asked for some comment and guidance on giving cards - or how to avoid giving them and achieving the same result.

I hope the rest of your season goes well and wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

John Burr.

## CONTROL & DISCIPLINE

75% of umpiring is **CONTROL**. If you have control the game will flow and you will enjoy yourself. You gain control by:

1. Being clearly understood - whistle and signals
2. Being in the right place at the right time to make the right decision.
3. Maintaining concentration.
4. Being fair

However sometimes we lose control by:

1. Allowing players to make decisions for us.
2. Being inconsistent with penalties.
3. Allowing time wasting and dissent from players.

If you do lose control warning cards are not always the answer, sometimes in fact they can have completely the wrong effect. Sometimes a quiet word to the player concerned will work, other times "upping the penalty" or progressing the free hit up ten metres or reversing your decision will be the answer. In certain circumstances, especially when several players are committing the same offence, it may be appropriate to speak to the captain/s, remember they do have a responsibility for the conduct of their teams, but this option should be used sparingly.

If however there is no option but to show a card there are some basic rules to remember:

1. Stop time.
2. Call for the player you want, don't allow a crowd of players to gather around you.
3. To avoid confrontation, as soon as it is obvious the player concerned is the one approaching you, hold up the card and usher her away, don't get into conversation this leads to further conflict.
4. Check with your colleague that they have got the desired information, should they not have seen the player's number, ask the player to turn and show their number to your colleague.
5. Make note of the relevant information ; i.e.. number - offence - time
6. Restart the game with the relevant penalty.

Umpires are only human and sometimes we over react to dissent, after all the player is suggesting we might not actually be perfect. We do need to remember however that the players deserve to be protected, the clumsy and dangerous foul should be dealt with appropriately to avoid the player who is offended against from taking her own retribution.

It is worth remembering that players may be awarded two green or even two yellow cards for different offences during the same game, but the same card should not be used when a card for the same offence has already been awarded to that player. Should it be necessary to show a second yellow card to the same player it is advisable to make the period of suspension significantly longer.

After the game ensure that all cards awarded are correctly recorded on the match sheets prior to signature. If a yellow card has been awarded it is the responsibility of the home team captain to forward a copy of the match report to the Regional Discipline Administrator Miss D.J.Davies, it may be worth reminding her.

If a **red** card has been awarded, **both** umpires must fill in a red card report form and forward it as soon as possible, at least within **72 hours**, to the County Discipline Administrator of the county to which the offender's club is affiliated. (If you are not sure which county this is, either check in the West League handbook or ask the team captain.)

The Western Region Disciplinary Administrator is as follows :-

### **Regional Discipline Administrator**

Miss D.J.Davies, Top House, High Street Hindon, SALISBURY, Wiltshire, SP3 6DJ

## **Dear Marge**

### **Your questions answered**

Dear Marge,

I had occasion to umpire a match in the most inclement weather recently and was surprised to see a player wearing a cap whilst playing. When I asked her about it she told me that the rain affected her contact lenses and she found a cap prevented any problems occurring during the game.

I was concerned about the safety aspect of this players decision and although did not insist she remove it, I was extremely concerned every time she went into a tackle. We fortunately had no injuries but I felt that the cap did pose a safety issue that is not covered in the rule book. Can you give me some guidance please?

Wet and Soggy!

Dear Wet and Soggy,

The best piece of advice that we can offer is - **use your common sense!**

You obviously did in this instance - well done!

I would suggest to others who come up against this problem to do several things:

1. Ask the player why she is wearing it - if you are satisfied that it is not just for fashionable purposes, explain that wearing it may put her opponents safety at risk but do not insist that it is removed. If it is for fun or fashion ask the captain to deal with it - it cannot be a club's uniform requirement!
2. Check the cap itself - is it a soft peak or a hard peak? The harder the peak the greater the safety hazard to opponents.
3. Talk to the captain's in a non-threatening way to explain your worries and ask them to agree to the wearing of the cap if it is deemed necessary.

Umpires have lots to do and think about before a game we do not want to add to the load in any way.

Marge

Dear Marge,

I have heard a lot about a new positioning for umpires this season but nothing yet in print. I have watched a few people recently who seemed to be in some very odd places for the short corner - I must admit I initially dismissed them as poor umpires but now I am not so sure.

Can you explain what is being discussed or tried out by the umpires at the top and say whether it is relevant to the likes of me in Division 3, please?

Confused

Dear Confused,

You are not the only one!

Joking apart - there is new positioning being tried out at the top and in the women's and men's game and it is filtering down to the regions very quickly. I was very sceptical of the suggestions at first but now that the umpires in the West have had time to discuss and try out some of the proposals we are finding that they have some merit.

The background to it is coming from the players at National level complaining about the number of fouls being missed or wrongly interpreted on the far side of the circle and beyond into the five yard line. A top coach was asked

to do some research at the World Cup in May. His findings backed up the players claims. Jane Nockolds, the English Hockey Umpire Development Officer with Ian Jennings, the coach, piloted a scheme to improve the situation by altering the umpires' positioning radically.

What they proposed was for umpires to be much closer to play and for the disengaged umpire to take positions closer to the colleague's circle and far corner when play is in that area. The engaged umpires are being asked to position themselves closer to play by moving out towards the top edge of the circle, effectively looking across the top of the circle to see play out beyond the circle edge. It means a lot of movement by the umpire but does mean that you are more effective.

The other proposal concerned the quick break out of defence. We have said for some years that umpires should be able to anticipate play and be fit enough to keep up with play if this occurs. We still advocate this, but what is being tried is for the umpire, in situations where there is a one-on-one or one-on-two, to follow the play rather than struggle to keep up and make decisions on the run. This is only effective if there are very few players involved. If more than, say, three players are involved then the umpire must keep up and use the normal positioning to avoid being unsighted.

The short corner positioning is also being experimented with. The umpire is again standing much closer to the circle edge initially to see the stop and first shot and any melee around the GK. BUT, the umpire must move into a better position once the stop and first shot has been made - or fluffed! - this is usually closer to play and in towards the goal.

These positions are being tested by umpires and are certainly not in tablets of stone yet! Please do watch someone or discuss it with a more experienced colleague, and talk through the implications of this positioning for you before you try it. It needs a team effort - it is difficult to do if one umpire is not prepared to co-operate. Check out the Clifton home games to see the top women umpires in action.

Marge

***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>
25/12/98	<b>Christmas ( A rest from umpiring - enjoy it )</b>	
26/12/98	<b>Boxing Day</b>	
01/01/99	<b>New Years Day ( Just 1 year until the big one )</b>	
28-30/12/98	U21 Regional Tournament	Milton Keynes
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.***

### **1998/99 Committee**

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