

VOLUME 27

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Chairman's Letter

Dear Colleague

Already a new season is almost upon us; indeed training has begun and the first friendly games will probably have been played by the time you receive this Newsletter.

This year our Summer League was held at Coombe Dingle, the Bristol University Sport's Ground, on their new water-based pitch. It ran very smoothly and seven umpires passed their Level 1 practical and there were a large number of reassessments. All umpires who asked for coaching received at least one coaching game and three umpires were selected to attend a West Coaching Course held in late July.

I wish to welcome our two new Committee Members. Lynda Watts returns to the Committee after a couple of years wondering why she left in the first place! Gill Prophet also joins us, and to both we extend a warm welcome and hope they enjoy their time on the Committee. Please remember that you may telephone any Committee Member on any matter concerning our Association and umpiring, and you will find a list of all Committee Members and their telephone numbers elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Our thanks go to Peter Lovell who has again agreed to act as Editor and co-ordinator of Newsletter items. Marge is also raring to go and would welcome any questions.

The Open Evening held at the end of the Summer League on the 'New' or 'Alternative' Positioning produced some interesting discussion both during and after the game. I wish to thank Mike Haynes and Peter Lovell for demonstrating the positioning principles to us, and a very big thank you to Redland Ladies and BAC Ladies for playing their final game umpired using the experimental positioning.

Anyone unsure or 'put off' by this experimental positioning should not be in the least alarmed and should continue to umpire in their usual way.

I would say one thing!

To anyone who feels, as some have said, that they like the new positioning because they find it LESS demanding physically, I would suggest that they are NOT umpiring using these new ideas. Carried out **properly** it is far MORE demanding of fitness and mobility than the fastest game umpired traditionally.

Anyone available on Wednesday afternoons and who would like to umpire university BUSA games please let me know as soon as possible. These games are of a very mixed standard, equivalent to North Division for 1st XI games to Brunel 3 for 3rd XI games.

I do hope you enjoy your season and remember, this is your Association: use it, and let us know if we can help in any way.

Best Wishes

John

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The More Flexible Approach

We've all heard a lot about the "new" positioning, remarks like "I like this because I don't need to move so fast" or "I don't have to be as fit" seem to be common place. Well if the Open Evening at the end of the Summer League proved anything it was that you **do** have to be fit and you **do** have to move, rather rapidly, at times. The two teams involved, BAC and Redland were briefed by the umpires as to what they were trying to achieve, and were basically told "If the umpires are in the way, push them out of the way".

A pre match brief was given to those that attended, by the umpires, Mike Haynes and Pete Lovell. Basically they outlined the philosophy and reasons behind the "new" or "alternative" positioning, and the members were encouraged to stand behind them during the game and to pick holes in what they were doing. The game proved to be a very open affair and, because of this, was ideal to demonstrate the ideas. Following the match questions were fielded by the two umpires.

People were concerned that at times the umpires when following in play on the far side found themselves on or close to the penalty spot. This was not to be encouraged because in many cases this is the area into which the ball would be played for a player to come onto to take a shot. The umpire was not aware that he was getting in quite as close as this and would obviously in future stem this enthusiasm so as not to get in the way of play.

Another area of concern for those watching was the positioning being adopted at short corners, there was concern that, because the umpires were not facing each other, it would be very difficult to get any assistance from your colleague. The umpires answered this by saying that the positions being adopted gave a much better view of play and should assistance be required it would be more obvious, because the active umpire would actually have to look over their shoulder to obtain it. It was also pointed out that in the pre match discussion between the umpires that they had agreed that if the disengaged

umpire was in anyway concerned with any aspect of play when a goal was scored from a short corner, that they would stand their ground and the engaged umpire would stop time and go over to talk. It was also suggested that because of their proximity and their better view that the disengaged umpire could now watch more carefully for the stop at short corners.

Some people felt that, although the new positioning offered better vision in certain areas, there were going to be times when the more traditional position was more apt. Both umpires agreed that it was important to be able to read the game and to adjust your positioning according, sometimes the old "hockey stick" movement was of more benefit, but ideally a mix and match scenario was probably going to be the ideal.

The evening was concluded by encouraging those present, who felt able, to "give it a go". Obviously the best time to try this would be in pre match friendlies, when results were of less importance to the teams involved. However if you felt, having tried this it was not for you there was no problem in reverting to the old style.

The Chairman concluded by saying that although the new or alternative positioning offered obvious benefits, umpires should be encouraged to umpire using the positions they felt most comfortable in. There being no need for everybody to learn a completely new philosophy unless they felt comfortable doing so.

Dear Marge

Your questions answered

Dear Marge,

So we're having a most enjoyable game of hockey and finally the away team are on the attack, when suddenly from the adjoining pitch comes a football right into the area where play is developing. What to do now, I wasn't really sure and allowed play to continue. Was this the right thing to have done or was there something else that should've happened?

Dear Umpire

I'm sure a football appearing on the pitch is not a rare event. However most of the time it comes onto the pitch well away from play and is returned

without having any effect on the game, in these cases no action need be taken by the umpire. When the football does appear close to the action, it is the responsibility of the umpire to decide whether there has been any effect on play, either advantaging or disadvantaging either side and, if there has been interference play should be stopped and a bully be taken where the incident occurred (if within 16 yards of the backline, on a point 16 yards from the backline).

Marge

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

Have you received your new rulebook?

If not it may be that you haven't yet paid your membership subscription.

Don't forget membership now includes insurance and if your umpiring it is wise to have this.

If you have any doubts about your membership please contact :-

Val Harding

who will be only to willing to advise you.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
05/09/99	Under 21 County Tournament	Coombe Dingle
17/10/99	2nd XI County Tournament	Guernsey
23/10/99	U18 & U16 Regional Tournaments	Milton Keynes
07/11/99	U19 County Tournament	Clifton College
21/11/99	U16 BAe School Championships	Bath
21/11/99	U18 BAe School Championships	Clifton College

28/12/99	U21 Regional Tournament	
06/02/00	U17 County Tournament	Clifton College
13/02/00	U14 County Tournament	Clifton College
20/02/00	U15 County Tournament	Clifton College
27/02/00	U18 BAe Schools Finals	
28/02/00	U16 BAe Schools Finals	
05/03/00	Mini Hockey	Clifton College
12/03/00	U19 Club Championship	Clifton College
19/03/00	County Championship single matches	
15-16/04/00	County Championship Weekend	Bournemouth
21-24/05/00	European Clubs Cup Winners Cup	
29/04/00	Veterans Championship	Bournemouth
13/05/00	U19 Club Championship Finals	
14/05/00	Cup / Plate / Under 15 Cup Finals	Milton Keynes
20/05/00	Veterans Championship Finals	
21/05/00	Mini Hockey Finals	
27/05/00	County Championship Finals	

1999/00 Committee

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

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.