

VOLUME 28

DECEMBER 1999

Chairman's Letter

Dear Member,

As you read this the first half of the season is virtually over and Christmas around the corner. I trust you have had an interesting and rewarding season so far. It does seem several clubs are short of umpires each week, judging by the number of telephone calls we are all getting each week. If you know of anyone hoping to do their Level 1 please ask them to get in touch. We have a course starting after Christmas.

In the New Year there will be an Open Evening. You will be sent details nearer the time. A large number of questions have been asked over the last couple of seasons about goalkeepers, their rights, what to look for etc. so the Open Evening will cover this with a couple of goalkeepers helping us along. I understand that there will be a short cabaret style interlude mid way through the evening!!

The 'New Positioning' or 'Alternative Positioning' seems to have received a mixed reception from National League umpires to Division 4 umpires. It is hoped that during the Open Evening people will have an opportunity to air their views and ask questions about the positioning which have arisen during the season so far.

Avon Umpires have again been very much the main provider of umpires for West tournaments and other matches. My thanks to those many of you who have helped out with covering games, and to Malcolm Kingshott who has spent hours on the telephone organising the umpires.

I should like to congratulate Jayne Mills and Gill Prophet who have both umpired at Premier 1 Level. It is worrying that there are not enough Level 2 umpires to service even Prem. 1 games this season [three years ago you will recall both Prem. 1 AND 2 were serviced by Level 2 umpires!]. However, it has given Jayne and Gill an opportunity to umpire at this level and they have both acquitted themselves very commendably indeed. Congratulations also to Janet Wilson who has also made significant strides with her umpiring, doing several Prem. 2 games . All three are umpires who are now very much sought after both in Avon and the West.

I trust many of you will come to the Open Evening next year. Please do keep in touch - we love the calls and 'Marge' is always looking for new material for her column.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Whistling New Year.

Best Wishes

John

Many members have often asked regarding the possible progression within umpiring. Please see below an item recently published in an E.H.A. document that clearly lays this out. The booklet from which this has been copied is "**Umpiring & Umpire Coaching**" and anyone requiring a copy should contact the E.H.A.

ENGLISH HOCKEY UMPIRING STRUCTURE

NATIONAL BADGE UMPIRE

Experienced EHL Register Umpires performing at the highest level of competition.

ENGLISH HOCKEY LEAGUE (EHL) REGISTER UMPIRE

Experienced LTR Umpires consistently appointed to the EHL Programme.

LEVEL TWO UMPIRE AWARD

Aimed at experienced LOR Umpires, coaches and players.

LEVEL ONE UMPIRE AWARD

Aimed at club players, PUA Umpires, coaches and enthusiasts of umpiring.

PRELIMINARY UMPIRE AWARD

Aimed at students, young people, young players and all occasional umpires.

YOUNG UMPIRE AWARD

A basic introduction to whistling and the Rules in particular small-sided (i.e. mini hockey) aimed at young players (under 16 years of age).

It's your Newsletter

What do you think of it?

Would you like anything different?

A suggestion that has been made is to include a regular column entitled "**HALF TIME TALK**". The idea behind this, is that you share with the rest of our members any amusing or out of the ordinary incidents. If you have any suggestions for inclusion or any other ideas please contact: Gill Prophet, 20 Moorlands Road, Fishponds, BRISTOL, BS16 3LF.

Dear Marge

Your questions answered

Dear Marge,

What's all this about feet not being feet? I have been told that do not blow if the ball goes onto the foot but to penalise if the foot comes into contact with the ball. Is this right? Has the rule changed?

Confused.

Dear Confused,

Yes! - but there is no change to the rule or it's interpretation.

There was an attempt to make the no feet rule clearer where talk was about "ball to foot" and "foot to ball". That was confusing!

Basically, if there is no advantage gained by the person who's foot touches the ball, then play on.

An obvious example is the situation where a long ball has been sent up the field; a solitary defence player attempts to stop it but misses it and the ball catches her foot, or it bounces off her stick onto her foot. There are no forwards close to her, she has lost an opportunity to play the ball quickly so no advantage was gained by the ball touching her foot. In this instance play on. Use your voice to indicate play on.

When other players are close and able to tackle for the ball then the best policy is to penalise the player.

The only time you need to penalise this player is if she deliberately puts out her foot to stop the ball. In this instance she has gained an advantage from using her foot.

Other examples would include:

1. The player on the wing, again with no other players close to her;
2. The forward player very high up the field who in receiving the ball, fumbles it and it then hits her foot. Play on if there are no close players;

Only penalise if, in these situations, the player has deliberately used her foot to play the ball.

Marge

Dear Marge,

In a recent Wessex Division 1 game I was overseeing a penalty corner when my colleague blew his whistle. He wanted to indicate that the players on the half way line had moved forward before the ball was struck for the penalty corner. I was uncertain of what to do next as the PC was already in play and his action brought everyone to a standstill. I decided that to replay the PC was the best option.

Was this OK?

Inexperienced Umpire

Dear Inexperienced Umpire,

Yes you did the correct thing. Your colleague was wrong to interrupt a goal scoring opportunity in your circle for such a breach of the rules fifty yards away.

The rulebook tells us that we are not allowed to blow while play is in our colleagues circle.

Advice to umpires will also indicate that such a breach of the rules like this need not necessarily be penalised. The forwards breaking from the half way line, unless they did not get back there by a long way in the first place, do not gain much by moving forwards early.

As the disengaged umpire at a PC you make contact with your colleague when the PC is given and when the PC is ready to be taken through eye contact and by raising your arm. At the second of these opportunities indicate that the players are not back if that is the case. The umpire taking the PC will then decide if the PC is to go ahead or if the players around the circle wait until every one is in place behind the halfway line. It is this umpire who makes that decision.

If the players break from the halfway line early then ignore it this time. Next time there is a PC walk across onto the pitch showing that you are watching for such a breach. You may want to use your voice to ask players not to move forward until the ball is struck.

The new positioning that is being experimented with at the top level completely ignores the players on the half way line!

Marge

Dear Marge,

In view of the "new" positional umpiring is it still sacrosanct not to blow for an offence in the opposite circle? During a recent match the other umpire was obscured by a melee of players even though he was in a good position. Should I have blown?

We discussed the position after the match and came to a conclusion that this might well be the case in future matches providing both umpires agree beforehand. What are your thoughts on this matter?

Doubtful

Dear Doubtful,

The rules still state clearly that umpires are solely responsible for decisions in their own circle and it would therefore be quite wrong to whistle in the other circle despite an agreement between the umpires that they would.

It will become confusing to the players and to the two umpires if either were able to blow in both circles. It would also become imperative that an advantage signal is given at all times in the circle so that your colleague did not blow when you were allowing play to proceed. Unless that advantage signal was given very quickly, your colleague may well step in before you were able to respond to your own decision to allow advantage.

The present convention of a signal to your colleague is still the best response in the situation you cite; if that signal is not taken then drop it and allow play to proceed. If a mistake is made in these circumstances then it is no different from other mistakes that may be made by umpires in any game.

As you mention "new" positioning, it is not now called "new", as it no longer is, but rather "flexible" positioning. Some of the more extreme experimental positions have also been dropped and it has reverted more towards the previous "traditional" positioning although still with some marked changes. It would be worth your while to discuss these with umpire coaches or West Premier/National League umpires.

Marge

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

A NOTE FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Just a couple of points regarding six match cards:

1. Anyone, on the active list, who qualified through the ACWHA (ladies), should have had, in September, a six match card from their club secretaries (as notified at time of posting). If you have not received yours contact John James immediately.

2. Anyone, on the active list, who qualified through the HA (mens) should have received a six match card from the Avon & Somerset Hockey Umpires Association. If you have not received yours contact either Mike Legg or Geoff Mitchell.

All cards should be returned to John James no later than 1st July 2000

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RED CARD REPORT FORMS

This year there is a new form for reporting red card offences and a copy is enclosed with this Newsletter for your information and/or use. For any further information on this topic please contact either Richard Powell, Avon's Disciplinary Officer or his assistant Lynda Watts.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
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
20-24/04/00	U16 & U18 Six Nations Tournament	
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.