

# Newsletter

Volume 30 September 2000

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Member,  
After a restful summer this newsletter and various enclosures tells us that it is time to get out that umpiring bag and blow the dust off our whistles with a few friendly matches before the league season gets going at the end of the month.

Whilst you have been resting your committee have been busy. After our discussion at the AGM regarding poor discipline from players and dealing with the ever increasing number of difficult situations which we now encounter, we have been looking at how we may help you, and have come up with the following:

An open evening set for 27th September at which Lyn Goodliffe will give us a talk on discipline and the psychology of umpiring in these difficult situations. The evening will also include a discussion on the rules and in particular the changes for the coming season. Please attend if you can as I am sure that you will find it worthwhile. Reintroduction of the mentoring arrangement, whereby each member of our committee together with John Burr, John James and Richard Powell, have taken on the responsibility of being there for you if you have any problems, want to discuss any particular aspects of your umpiring or to support you.

Each mentor will be contacting those umpires for whom they will be responsible.

This does not stop you from contacting any member of the committee as before, but should lead to more contact between our members and the committee which will ensure that we are providing you the members with what you want from your Association.

The number of active umpires in the County has dropped quite considerably this season which is very worrying as it will put even more pressure on those of you who already do probably two games in a day to do another one. Don't forget that we as umpires get fatigue like the players so DO NOT be pushed into doing that extra game when you are tired as these are the matches which will give you most aggro. The game needs more umpires and not even fewer umpires doing more and more games. So if you know someone who would like to give umpiring a try, help them all you can and put them in contact with us to help increase the numbers again.

Wishing you all the best for the forthcoming season. May it be enjoyable and rewarding.

Best wishes

Gill

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# Dear Marge



Your questions answered  
Your questions answered

Dear Marge,

On two occasions over the last twelve months I have been umpiring at matches where my colleague has not joined me at half-time for a chat but gone over to their team and actively coached the players. I know this is discouraged but did not feel able to go across and point this out on either occasion.

What advice would you give others and myself in this situation?

Bemused

Dear Bemused,

You are correct an umpire cannot officiate and umpire in the same match. The rule book clearly states that umpires are debarred from coaching during the game and at half-time. This is not just League or Cup games but in all matches.

Your predicament is not unusual; I expect many umpires reading this will empathise with you. My advice is to wait until the half time is completed and then go across to your colleague and discuss the issues you need to raise with them. This will necessitate the teams waiting a little longer for the commencement of the second half but the point will have been made if not in words then at least non-verbally to all concerned.

It is not an easy situation to deal with. You may need to firm and clear with your colleague when you umpire with them again, that you expect to discuss the play at half-time.

Dear Marge,

At a recent gathering of a few umpires the penalty stroke was been discussed. The question of a dragged flick was raised. Is it a legal stroke for this penalty?

The Debating Group

PS. What do you call a gathering of umpires? A whistle? A set? A gaggle? A swarm?

Dear Debating Group,

Good question what do you call a gathering of umpires? Answers on a postcard to the Hon. Sec. please!

The legitimate strokes for the penalty are a push, a flick or a scoop of the ball from the penalty spot. These strokes are carefully explained at the back of the rule book (pages 29/30). The dragged flick is only referred to in relation to the penalty corner. It is not a legal method of propelling the ball in this instance.

Dear Marge,

I'm on a quest for truth, justice and the American way. Oops! Sorry, too many E numbers in my lunchtime drink!!

I need to know the answer to the following:

If a player goes down to make a tackle or intercept the ball and the ball hits the hand that is holding the stick, is that an offence? Is her hand deemed to be part of the stick? The reason for asking is that I blew for such an incident and Sam Peach from Exeter disagreed (in a very agreeable way, I must say!) about the decision. We chatted after the game and I promised to check up on it.

Your expert opinion is eagerly awaited.

Concerned

Dear Concerned,

I have consulted the experts and they say that the hand is part of the stick so unless the player uses her/his hand unfairly to gain an advantage then a foul has not occurred. Keep an eye open at penalty corners though, for illegal use of the hand to stop the ball!

## Mary Eyre - East Glos., Gloucestershire, West, England,

I am very honoured to be asked to write a little about the pleasure I have had as a hockey player and as a hockey umpire. I enjoyed both careers equally probably because I was brought up on both since a very early age.

After I left school I played and umpired local matches during the war and: afterwards I was lucky enough to be selected to play for Gloucestershire, West and England. I tried for my "A" umpires badge in 1949 but was told I was "too young"! In 1951 I gained the badge and started to umpire territorial matches - other territories were most kind to me and gave me matches, as in those days, territories used their own umpires. At the same time I became an umpire selector so I usually watched or played in all ten territorial matches!. Again I was lucky to be selected to umpire international matches and started on my career of 26 internationals with 10 of these being played at Wembley when the noise as we came out of the "tunnel" was absolutely incredible.

About this time I became West representative on AEWHHA umpiring-sub-committee, a position I held for many years under several chairmen - my dearest memories are of Mary Langdon (chairman) who drove up from Truro (no motorways), met me at Cheltenham whence I drove her to Birmingham and back, she then drove back to Truro and the only request being for a flask of boiling water!. Following this the meetings were at Wembley before the matches. I was happy to attend these, leaving home at 8am until new-rules for the next season were discussed, then I retired for lunch! I was honoured to chair West umpiring-sub-committee for some years and continued until 3 years ago as Gloucestershire representative on this committee. There were many changes made through the years some good and some not so good but I enjoyed it all.

Actually umpiring territorial and international matches was very thrilling -;we wore grey skirts and white blouses;(when\* sweaters were introduced I insisted on wearing a mackintosh anorak underneath to keep me warm and dry). We always travelled and stayed with the teams which I enjoyed and would greatly miss now. I have to admit to a slight disloyalty to England at the IFWHA Tournament in Edinburgh when England reached the final thus preventing me from umpiring it!.

I have to admit that I am glad my activities took place when they did - everyone was so pleasant and appreciative of umpires then - I feel great sympathy with the present officials. Of course there were no managers or technical tables ( we were offered timekeepers but I preferred to keep my own time) but there were "bleepers" at Wembley as it was desperately difficult to make the whistle heard and thus it was blown less and less! I am grateful to Bridget and Bar West who spent so much time watching my arm and not the game!

Rules have changed enormously and thus the positioning of umpires and also the fact the umpires can "hold the whistle" to see if there is any advantage and then "blow" - it is still a surprise to me! I was so lucky to have my Mother as an international umpire, player, selector and coach as well as a committee chairman so that I just stepped into her shoes, having learnt so much from her and from my Aunt, a brilliant player, who I must admit was a very "honouree "B" umpire!

I would like to thank everyone concerned for the lovely silver dish with which the West umpiring-sub-committee have presented me. I thoroughly enjoyed all my hockey life and will still occasionally turn out if there is NO-ONE else to umpire but thank you all who, so often offer to "save me and the players"! Good luck to all present and future umpires. I hope you will get as much enjoyment from the game as I have since I started it all in 1946.

### A note from your editor

I am sure that all our members would like to thank Mary for her untiring and unstinting efforts for the good of hockey and would like to wish her well in whatever she chooses to do in the future.

**THANK YOU MARY**

## OPEN MEETING

Lyn Goodliffe will give a talk on discipline and the psychology of umpiring in difficult situations. The evening will also include a discussion on the rules and in particular the changes for the coming season. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND

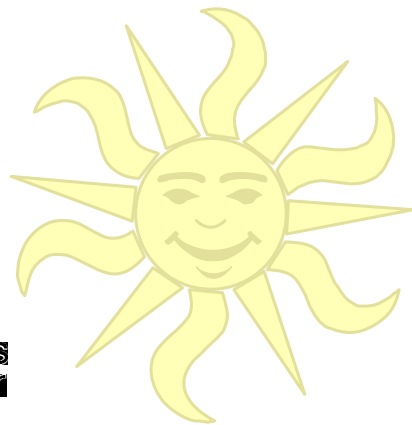


### Summer League

Congratulations to both Clifton and Jaspers on winning Div. 1 and Div. 2 of our summer league respectively.

Anyone wishing to see the final results and table may do so at our web site on:  
[www.850megs.com/acwhua](http://www.850megs.com/acwhua)

Our thanks go to all those who took part in another successful summer season.



## COMPETITION



Here it is your new caption competition. All you have to do is think of a funny caption for the cartoon and the funniest one as judged by the editor will win a pealess whistle. So go on join in the fun and send your entries to your Secretary Peter Lovell.



Entries should be sent to Peter Lovell,  
6 Salisbury Park, Salisbury Road, Downend,  
Bristol, BS16 5RY or Emailed to  
[peterlovell@tesco.net](mailto:peterlovell@tesco.net) by 15th November 2000.

### RULE CHANGES

PLEASE READ THE RULE REGARDING THE PENALTY CORNER, RULE 15.2.  
CAREFULLY AND NOTE THE CHANGES.

THESE CHANGES AND ANY OTHERS WILL BE FULLY DISCUSSED AT THE OPEN  
MEETING TO BE HELD AT CLIFTON RUGBY CLUB ON SEPTEMBER 27TH AT  
7.30PM.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
03/09/00	Under 21 County Tournament	Bath
17/09/00	Avon 1st XI Tournament	Clifton
<b>27/09/00 7.30pm</b>	<b>Open Meeting – Talk by Lyn Goodliffe on Discipline and psychology of umpiring.</b>	<b>Clifton Rugby Club</b>
21-23/10/00	Under 18 & Under 16 Regional Tournaments	
05/11/00	Under 19 County Tournament	
12/11/00	Under 16 & Under 18 Bae Schools Championship	
28-29/12/00	Under 21 Regional Tournament	
04/02/01	Under 17 County Tournament	
11/02/01	Under 15 County Tournament	
18/02/01	Under 14 County Tournament	
04/03/01	Mini Regions	
11/03/01	Under 19 Club Championships	
18/03/01	Avon Veterans Tournament	
07/04/01	Avon 2nd XI Tournament	
21-22/04/01	County Championship Weekend	
28-29/04/01	Veterans Championship	

## SIX MATCH CARDS

Enclosed with this newsletter is your six match card for the coming season. Your committee has decided to extend the return of this card to July 31st 2001, thus allowing umpires to use the summer league as well. The deadline however will be strictly applied next season. Should you complete the card earlier please send it back as soon as possible to Pete Lovell. Should you have any queries at all please contact Peter, number above.