

Newsletter

Volume 31 December 2000



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

As we now approach the end of the first half of the season I am sure that many of you are looking forward to putting your feet up for a few weeks and to joining in with your club's festive activities. The first half of the season seems to have sped by reasonably smoothly although there are still a few clubs encountering problems finding umpires. We do our best to help but it is not always possible.

It is pleasing to see so many of our members participating in County matches and West tournaments and I congratulate all those who have taken part. After Christmas hopefully the numbers will grow even further.

You should now have heard directly from your mentors in the reintroduces scheme, and I am pleased that so many of you have come back with favourable comments.

Our open evening at the end of September was a great success for those who attended. Unfortunately, bad weather, traffic problems and other commitments restricted the number attending. My thanks to Lyn Goodliffe for a superb evening that had us all working and thinking. The fruits of her labours and ours are included in this newsletter,

as a reminder for those who came and information for those unable to attend. If you have any comments please give either myself or any of the other committee members a call.

Finally don't forget that this is **your** Association, so don't be afraid to give us your suggestions for the topic for the next open evening, articles for this newsletter or any other ideas you may have.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Best Wishes

Gill

Committee

Chairman:
Gill Prophet 9652716
Secretary:
Peter Lovell 9091025
Treasurer:
Val Harding 9837594
Committee:
Bob Pearce
Liz Powell
Lynda Watts
Janet Wilson

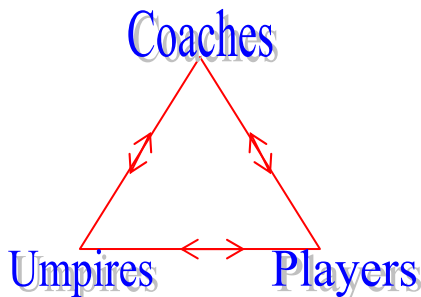
A
D
F
W
G
A



Psychology & Discipline

For those of you who were unable to attend the excellent open evening presented by Lyn Goodliffe here is a brief summary of the evening.

Lyn opened the evening by pointing out the importance of players, coaches and umpires in the enjoyment and development of the sport of hockey. She felt for this to work efficiently it was necessary for all three to communicate.



We then split into groups to consider three different scenarios.

The findings of three groups were as follows:

Scenario One – Umpire/Umpire

The 2 umpires are not working as a team. Umpire A is continually blowing on the far side of the pitch in umpire B's territory. Umpire B is getting frustrated and resentful that umpire A seems to be trying to dominate the game.

1. Discuss from umpire A's perspective.
2. Discuss from umpire B's perspective.
3. Decide on courses of action umpire B can take.

Umpire A could be:

- a) Over or under confident
- b) Unaware
- c) Dominant
- d) Too quick off the mark.
- e) Sex?
- f) Believe they are offering support/assistance.

Umpire B is likely to be:

- a) Undermined and/or intimidated
- b) Frustrated and/or angry
- c) Could retaliate.
- d) Lacking in concise communication.

Course of action umpire B might take:

- a) Talk – either immediately or at half time or full time.
- b) No action – just grins and bears it.
- c) Kick **him** in the sphericals.
- d) Punch **her** (Political correctness).
- e) Discuss with mentor.
- f) Offer assistance (via mentor).

Scenario Two – Player/Umpire

A particular player seems to be “getting at” the umpire on the majority of his/her decisions.

This is having an unsettling effect on the umpire and also on both teams. Other players are beginning to follow suit. It is a particularly important match and there is a strong competitive atmosphere.

Discuss ways in which the umpire can try to minimize conflict in the game:

It was decided that the umpire could minimize conflict in the game by:

Before the game:

- a) Discuss how to handle such situations in the pre match chat.
- b) Talk to both captains with regard to their responsibilities, especially concerning the behaviour of their players.

During the game:

- a) Any dissent should be dealt with by initially upping the free hit 10 yards or reversing the decision and if that doesn't work the issue of cards.
- b) The umpires could assist each other by having a calming influence.
- c) Talk at half time and if necessary call the captains over.

After the game:

- a) Chat to your colleague and the players over a drink

Scenario 3 – Players/Umpires

From the players' point of view, discuss and decide on a list of agreed 'things' that players do not like about certain umpires. From that list agree the top five.

These were the points agreed:

- a) Whistle strength – not in keeping with the offence.
- b) Inconsistency.
- c) Not keeping up to date with the rules.
- d) Lacking in empathy with the players.
- e) Indecisiveness.
- f) Lack of fitness – thus getting in the way.
- g) Poor or inadequate signals.
- h) Bias
- i) Making comment through the game.
- j) Unable to appreciate advantage.

The groups then came back together to consider a fourth scenario:

Scenario 4 – Discipline

Consider the use of cards and other disciplinary measures that can be used by the umpire during the game.

Discuss ways the above can **help** to resolve conflict and improve discipline.

Discuss ways in which they can **cause** conflict and hinder the game.

Measures:

- a) Cards
- b) Up 10 yards (short corner in the 25)
- c) Reverse decision.
- d) Talk to captains.
- e) Strength of whistle.
- f) Smiling
- g) Sense of humour.
- h) Decisiveness and confidence.
- i) Pre match umpires talk.
- j) Look for help from colleague.

It was agreed that these measures could help by setting the tone for the captains and players.

They could hinder or cause further conflict by inappropriate or over use.

The good umpire recognises the appropriate time to use any of these measures.

Summary

Lyn then gave a summary of her thought regarding what makes a good umpire.

They were noted as:

- a) Judge the atmosphere – the good umpire assesses the situation and uses the appropriate action.
- b) Knowledge of the rules.
- c) Preparation – it is important for the umpires to prepare properly.
- d) Maintain a sense of humour.
- e) Develop credibility when you communicate.
- f) Communicate with a positive approach.
- g) Remember communication is a two way process.
- h) Be sure to send the right messages – body language is important.
- i) Share and care.

At this point the evening ended with everybody agreeing that it had been a most enjoyable and informative event.



Dear Marge



Your questions answered

Dear Marge



In recent weeks it has become more and more obvious to me that teams are not complying with the rules regarding substitutions. Namely, players are entering the field of play prior to another team member leaving the field of play.

I have scanned my rulebook in an effort to find out what to do in these circumstances. Apart from the fact that the rulebook states that substitutions should take place at the half way line, or any other place previously agreed with the umpires, there is no penalty for an incorrect substitution. Your advice please.



Club umpire

Dear club umpire,

You are right - there is no penalty for an incorrect substitution such as you describe. If an incorrect substitution is made at a penalty corner it can of course be reversed for the duration of the penalty corner.

In general the breach of the rule is only by a few yards, with one player heading off the field and one onto the field. I have never known any advantage to arise from this.

The only penalty that could be applied is if the oncoming player were to interfere with play before the outgoing player has left the pitch.

This would give rise to a free hit or suitable penalty to the opposing team since the incoming player is not in play until the outgoing player has left the pitch.

My advice is to ignore the breach and not let it interfere with your concentration, but do make the point to the captains at halftime or after the match, whichever may be appropriate.

Dear Marge.

I wonder if you could explain to me the procedure that should have been adopted after an incident in a pre-league friendly match.

The opposing team turned up with 11 players and included within the 11 was their qualified umpire.

I was told the umpire was to umpire and play at the same time. I explained that due to safety and fairness I was not happy with this and told their umpire/player that I did not want her umpiring on the pitch and if she was to umpire she had to run

the line in the usual manner. I was not prepared to umpire the whole match on my own due to the nearness of league matches and lack of match practice during the summer months. I also felt on a safety level she was behaving inappropriately. After proceeding with the toss and choosing ends she then came onto the pitch with whistle and stick and upon my asking what she was doing replied, " I am umpiring and playing". I felt that I had been bullied into allowing her to play although it was against my better judgement. Upon her comment to me "If you are qualified you should be able to umpire on your own" I felt compelled to write and ask what you would have done in this situation. Should I have stuck to my guns or should I have carded her, as a player, for her dissent? I was told after the match that the two captains have agreed for her to umpire and play a couple of days before, but surely as a match official I should have been consulted.

Your comments would be helpful.



Dear Colleague,

Firstly it is very discourteous of the captain of your club's team not to have discussed the umpiring situation with you if she knew of it a couple of days before the match.

However, you should indeed have stuck to your guns! The rules require (Rule 8):

- Two umpires shall control the game [not one!]
- Umpires do not change ends
- Players are under the jurisdiction of umpires
- Umpires are solely responsible for decisions in their own circle

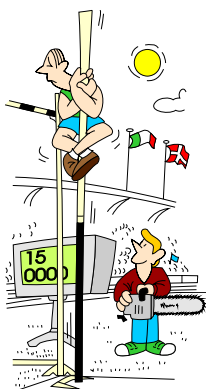
I do not believe that a player/umpire can properly fulfil these requirements; if she was a forward how could she be in a position to make correct decisions back in her own circle! Etc. She would not therefore be an umpire so there are not two umpires - so the rules have not been fulfilled. Despite many claims to the contrary one umpire cannot in any case control a game properly.

Frankly you should have refused to umpire under these circumstances and insisted on a proper second umpire.

Do take this reply back to your Club captains so that they are aware of this point for the future.



CAPTION COMPETITION



This was last month's cartoon and you were asked to supply a caption. Your committee has decided that there was a tie for the best caption each receiving a pealesse whistle.

- 1) "Umpire – a red card would have been sufficient"
- 2) "Couldn't I just go behind the goal umpire?"



Now for this month's:

Yes – that is your new Chairman followed closely by another member of your committee – experiencing some sort of difficulty – exactly what we're not quite sure.

The photo was taken during the umpires' August bank holiday tour in Barnstaple, a very pleasant and enjoyable experience if a little exhausting.

There is another pealesse whistle on offer for the best caption – so why not give it a go.

Send your entries to: Peter Lovell, 6 Salisbury Park, Salisbury Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5RY or Email to: Peterlovell@tesco.net

NEW INDOOR HOCKEY RULES BOOK

The new indoor hockey rules book is now available.

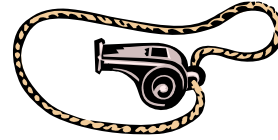
Any umpires 'blowing indoors' should be aware that it is literally **full** of changes and should be read by all who participate.

Available direct from **English Hockey, The stadium, Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 1HA**

Telephone: 01908-544644

Price £2.00 + 30p p&p per copy





Who's been doing what

Apart from junior county matches our umpires have been involved in numerous West events, please see below who has been doing what.

1 st October	Avon Juniors v Wiltshire	Under 15s	Val Harding Suzanne Poole
		Under 17s	Janet Wilson Steve Moseley
5 th November	West Under 19 Counties Tournament		Lesley Bayne, Jeanette Bokacz, Peter Lovell, Jayne Mills and Gill Prophet.
12 th November	West BAe Systems Under 16 Schools		Val Harding, Peter Lovell, Sue Nash, Fran Ripley, Lisa Vyner and Gill Wheadon.
	West BAe Systems Under 18 Schools		Simon Croucher, Gill Prophet and Janet Wilson.

Apart from these appointments Janet Wilson and Simon Croucher have attended a West coaching event and other umpires have assisted at West training matches. Our thanks congratulations go to all those involved.

Web Site



For those of you with Internet access our web site address is:

[Www8.50megs.com/acwhua](http://www.8.50megs.com/acwhua)

Please visit and let us have your comments.

Help!

Finally a plea for help from your umpiring secretary.

As most of you are probably aware the local universities are playing competitive matches on Wednesday afternoons and are continually seeking umpires.

Should any of you be able to assist please contact Peter Lovell 0117-9091025 or Email Peterlovell@tesco.net