

Newsletter

Volume 32 March 2001

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

How time flies!! There is talk of summer league and annual general meetings in the air, an indication that the regular season is coming to an end, but not until the league programme is completed.

Your committee has started to plan for next year – our summer league is booked and teams have been approached. This year for the first time coaching is being offered to any member who is interested on a no charge basis, so if you feel you may benefit give us a call (see ad later in newsletter).

Our AGM has also been arranged and I would ask anyone who is interested in working on the committee to come forward. The committee tends to meet on a monthly basis with meeting lasting between 1.5 and 2 hours with a constant supply of refreshments laid on. Don't forget new committee members bring fresh ideas which stops us becoming boring and predictable.

Congratulations must be extended to Jayne Mills who has recently become a level 2 umpire –**WELL DONE JAYNE!!**

I would like to thank all those umpires who have officiated in

County games and West Tournaments (last month over 10% of our membership were involved on one day alone). **WELL DONE!!**

Even with this number involved there are never enough umpires at any level, therefore it is important that if anyone is interested in taking up the whistle they are encouraged firstly to start and secondly to take a qualification. Don't forget there are constantly umpires wishing to move upwards and unfortunately some giving up. It is important we keep our numbers up by getting new umpires qualified.

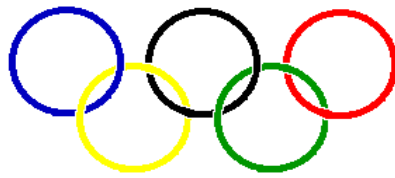
Finally I must thank the committee for all their efforts during the past year and for ensuring our meetings are never dull.

I wish you all the best for the remainder of the season and look forward to seeing you either before or at the AGM.

Happy Whistling -Best Wishes

Gill

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How to be a World and Olympic women's hockey umpire

On the face of it this sounds an exotic way of spending your leisure time with appointments over the last 12 years to such places as Cuba, South Africa, Canada and New Zealand all far away from the pressures of the Research Assessment Exercise, Ofsted Inspections, Teaching Quality Assessment and of course lecturing at Southampton University. It's not quite so exotic however when you are pounding the streets in the middle of winter in the pouring rain and spending part of Christmas Eve and Boxing Day at the gym training.

So, how did I get to be selected as one of the 14 women umpires for the Sydney Olympics? To be in the top flight of umpires on the World and Olympic panel, of which there are currently only 18 women, requires that an umpire, when assessed on every international match they do scores over 8 out of 10. Factors included in the assessment are such things as control, signals, and co-operation with the other umpire on the pitch and fitness. Failure to maintain this score means that an umpire can be removed from the panel of Umpires. I have always scored well on these various aspects except that my signals have always been regarded as somewhat different! Still, the players have always appeared to understand them.

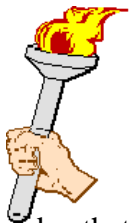
Sydney was actually my third Olympics and this was a unique achievement as no British woman had ever umpired at three Games. Thus, it seemed a long time since my first Olympics in Barcelona in 1992.

When I was selected for the Games in Atlanta in 1996 I was certainly wiser and older and, I knew that this was my opportunity to establish myself on the Olympic and World

stage. Prior to Atlanta I had umpired my first World Cup final (Dublin, 1994), a match I started but never finished due to a torn calf muscle - another unique happening! Training for Atlanta was vastly different to Barcelona and Sydney since the heat and humidity required a specific acclimatisation programme. For me, part of this involved spending increasing time in a local sauna walking and resting, until the final stages of my preparations required that I walk constantly for 60 minutes which is no easy task in a tiny sauna at my local leisure centre. Involvement in this acclimatisation programme also necessitated the monitoring and measuring of most bodily functions including fluid output to be measured in a handy jug! Using and buying a jug will never be quite the same again. Indeed, this very jug (washed out) has been much used for watering the plants in my office. The Atlanta Games went well and I was appointed to umpire the gold medal match between Australia and Korea. I struggled to overcome my nerves at the responsibility of this but overcame them and the match was a thrilling encounter, which Australia won.

1997 was memorable, as when in Berlin I umpired the final of the Champions Trophy (a competition featuring the top 6 teams in the world) I became the first English woman to umpire 100 Internationals. In 1998 I went to the World Cup in Utrecht, Holland, again I was selected to umpire the final - and this time I completed the match. The year closed on a high with the award of an MBE from the Queen for 'services to hockey and women's hockey'.

This September I arrived in Sydney early to get over the stresses and strains of the flight ready for the pressures of the 2 weeks of the Olympic hockey competition knowing too that it would be my final tournament as I had decided to retire at what I hoped was the top. There is an age limit of 48 but I was well

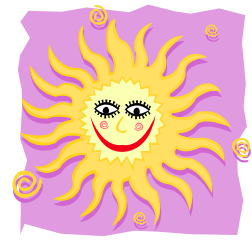


inside that. Hockey was second only to athletics in terms of demands for tickets; the stadium seated over 15,000 and just about every day was a sell out. The crowds certainly added to the pressure and the noisy atmosphere. Increasingly, there is more at stake, be it for the players from some countries big pensions for life and new cars, for coaches the power to name their salary but for umpires only ... personal satisfaction at a job well done. Television makes it all an instant global experience - there is no hiding place, with cameras and microphones everywhere including in the goal. Hockey although it has yet to embrace the 3rd umpire unlike some other sports now has the possibility of the instant replay, since for the first time in Olympic hockey history the big TV screen was alongside the pitch. This was scary as everyone could now see the fouls that you had missed! Fortunately, they did not replay the action when it was deemed too contentious.

Sydney was a wonderful experience and a great tournament to go out on, finishing as I did by umpiring the Bronze medal match between Holland and Spain, a bruising physical encounter for the teams that Holland won. The volunteers at the Olympic venues were helpful, transport actually arrived on time and didn't get lost unlike Atlanta, and the food was good. The opening and closing ceremonies were awesome to watch and I had the pleasure of bumping into Royalty and Politicians at the Games. So next Olympics who knows what my role will be most likely I will be an armchair spectator.

Dr Gill Clarke MBE **Retired World and Olympic Umpire**

*Our thanks to Gill for a very interesting and informative article, and for the talk she gave at one of our Open Evenings. We wish her well in whatever she now decides to do with her Saturday afternoons.
Good luck Gill from all at A.C.W.H.U.A.*



Summer League

The Umpires Association is again planning to run a summer league competition on the Water Based pitch at Coombe Dingle.

Teams from the Premier Divisions through to Brunel 1 play competitively in 2 leagues.

This provides the Umpires Association with opportunities for coaching and testing umpires and to have some fun.

The league will start on Thursday 17 May 2001 and will be on Mondays and Thursday until the end of July.

As an association member we offer you this opportunity to umpire a good standard of hockey with free coaching if you wish.

If you would like to be involved in this years summer league please contact **Janet Wilson on 0117 9828039 as soon as possible** so that you can be included in the schedule.

Committee

Chairman:
Gill Prophet 9652716

Secretary:
Peter Lovell 9091025

Treasurer:
Val Harding 9837594

Committee:
Bob Pearce
Liz Powell
Lynda Watts
Janet Wilson



Dear Marge



Your questions answered!

Dear Marge,

I was unfortunate to be embroiled in a difficult situation in a recent match and would like to hear what you think about such situations.

We were about 10 minutes into a league match when it became clear that one team had 12 players on the pitch. I believe it was a genuine error on the part of the team but my colleague stopped the game and came to discuss the situation with me. We decided to speak to the captain of the offending team, who protested her innocence and apologised. The extra player was removed and we went to restart the game. We then had an appeal from the other team's captain – was there no penalty, could her team have a short corner at least? After some discussion we decided not to give any penalty and continued the game with a bully.

Were my colleague and I right or should we have penalised the offending team in some way?

What would have happened if the team had scored with the extra player still on the field?

“Willing-to-learn”



Dear “Willing-to-learn”,

*Well done! You did the correct thing. The umpire cannot give any penalty for a team having extra players on the pitch. When you do notice it, get the captain to remove a player immediately. However, before blowing the whistle to start a match **an umpire should always count the players on their end of the pitch.** This will ensure no errors – genuine or otherwise, from the beginning of play.*

There are no penalties for this situation occurring and resulting in a goal. It is an umpire error just as in the same way an umpire may miss a foul in the circle. You need to be vigilant and if at the beginning of a match you are seen to count the players and check if substitutes are available, then it will

probably not happen. Don't normally get involved with substitutions; but by mentally noting there are, for instance, two subs at the beginning of the match, you may be aware if it is down to one later on!

Marge



Dear Marge,

Please can you confirm where a coach, or a member of the substitute bench, should retire to if any of them receive a yellow card?

If a substitute receives a yellow card does the captain have to take a member of the team off the pitch (as in Indoor Hockey)?

I shall await your reply with interest.

Thanks

Lesley



Dear Lesley

If a coach or a member of the substitutes bench receive a yellow card they do not in fact leave the bench. The exception may be in a full tournament situation with a technical table where places are provided for such eventualities.

In both cases they are not permitted to participate in the game at all for the length of the temporary suspension. The coach will not be allowed to leave the bench or to coach or encourage her/ his team for that time; in the case of a substitute player she must remain on the bench, cannot be used for substitution purposes and cannot give encouragement to her team for that time.

If a substitute receives a yellow card the captain does NOT take a playing member off the field – the discipline for outdoor hockey differs in this regard from that indoors.

Marge



CAPTION COMPETITION



Here are some of the suggestions for last month's caption competition:

- 1) "Wait for me I'm not ready for my 'pas de deux' yet"
- 2) "I could've sworn I put clean ones on this morning"
- 3) "I haven't done line dancing before so is it the red or yellow foot first?"

Congratulations to Chris and Jenny Mayo who supplied the winning caption:
"I don't think much of these open plan changing rooms."

A peales whistle is winging it's way to them.

Now for this month's:



Yet another photo taken during the umpires' August bank holiday tour in Barnstaple.

This is your secretary looking the worse for wear and not the prettiest of sights.

There is another peales whistle on offer for the best caption – so why not give it a go, but be gentle please!!

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

Annual General Meeting

This years AGM of the Association has been set for

Tuesday May 1st at 7.30pm

At

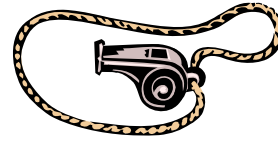
Old Bristolians Sports and Social Club
Failand

The bar will be open.

Please make every effort to attend

If you require directions please contact either Bob Pearce or Peter Lovell





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.

3 rd December	EHA Women's Trophy – Marjons v Harrow		Tim Smith Gill Prophet
	EHA Women's Trophy – Swindon v Newbury		Jayne Mills
16 th December	West Under 21 Training Match		Fran Ripley
17 th December	West Under 21 Training Match		Simon Croucher
21 st January	Avon Juniors Triangular	Under 14s	Sue Nash Bob Pearce
		Under 15s	Val Harding
		Under 17s	Simon Croucher
21 st January	EHA Women's Vase – Stroud v East Suffolk		Jayne Mills
4 th February	EHA Trophy – Exeter v Sunbury		Peter Lovell
	West Under 17 Counties Tournament. Jeanette Bokacz, Simon Croucher, Gill Prophet, Jayne Mills, Tim Smith, Val Harding, Sue Nash, Julia Tuffrey, Richard Powell and Steve Moseley, with Liz Powell as adjudicator.		
11 th February	West Under 15 Counties Tournament. Julia Tuffrey, Steve Moseley, Val Harding, Jayne Mills, Simon Croucher and Peter Lovell, with Gill Prophet as adjudicator.		
18 th February	West Under 14 Counties Tournament Steve Moseley, Simon Croucher, Val Harding, Janet Wilson and Peter Lovell, with Jo West as adjudicator.		

Congratulations and thanks to all those involved

Web Site



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

**[Www.8.50megs.com/acwhua](http://www.8.50megs.com/acwhua)
Please visit and let us have your comments.**