

Newsletter

Volume 36 April 2002

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Almost the end of another season – a season which seems to have flown by!! I hope you have enjoyed the season as much as I have. It is important that as umpires we do not spoil matches by being over officious and dogmatic. Both the players and ourselves should start a match with the aim to enjoy themselves – after all this should be one of the main reasons why we umpire. We should always be seen to be neutral, but at the same time there is nothing to stop us from showing that we have appreciated a good performance from a player or a wonderful piece of advantage by our colleague which has led to a goal. In short we need to have EMPATHY with both the players and our colleagues.

Our AGM approaches and enclosed with this newsletter are nomination forms for the committee for next season. Don't be afraid to come forward if you have ideas or would like to help. It is important to have new faces on the committee to provide fresh ideas and to stop the association getting stale.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the committee during the past season for their hard work during a very busy

season. I would also like to thank John Burr and John James for their work with the 4 yearly reassessments and to all other coaches and mentors who have given of their time during the season.

Finally it has been great to see so many new faces umpiring at West tournaments this year. All of you looked to be enjoying yourselves and I trust you have gained from the experience. I look forward to seeing you next season along with some more new faces!

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!!

Gill



Committee

Chairman:
Gill Prophet 9652716

Secretary:
Peter Lovell 9091025

Treasurer:
Bob Pearce 9622139

Committee:
Joe Garry
Liz Powell
Lynda Watts
Janet Wilson



ENGLISH
HOCKEY

Involvement

To umpire matches fairly, you need to avoid becoming too involved with the players/teams. During the game many umpires rarely use their voice to communicate to the players. Some may say “play on” or “5 metres please” but there are other occasions when it would be beneficial for you to speak. So, although your communication with players is primarily through your whistle and your body language, use of brief and positive verbal communication is also advantageous.

If a player asks you a question (e.g. “what was that for umpire?”) – answer them briefly and politely. Don’t threaten them with a card, that is the silliest thing you can do and will immediately break down any attempt to develop a positive rapport and mutual respect. Remember however, that there has to be a limit and continual verbal reaction, answers or excessive chat will result in a reduction in your concentration.

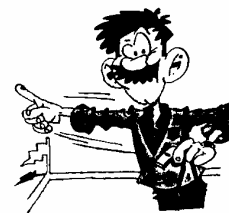
Try to ignore everything that you hear from the pitch-side, the team benches etc. It is often irrelevant and inaccurate.

In an important game – perhaps a cup semi-final or something similar, immediately after the game, move away from the players and their coaches. Imagine if you were a player who had just lost a game, a game you expected to win and maybe you had trained for months or more. It is very likely that you would be upset and you might well in the heat of the moment, show your anger and your frustration and challenge the umpire...so, stay clear umpires!

Talking with players and coaches after a game is strongly recommended, however, don’t be tempted into answering excessively detailed questions about the decisions you made during the game. You made that decision in a split second. Discussing it...maybe an hour later – you cannot possibly recreate the exact state of mind you had in that split second or the conditions existing at the time. General discussions with your colleagues are strongly recommended. These discussions are usually beneficial to you and also to other umpires.

One further point... don’t chase the ball. Let the players get it. You must focus on the game and be 100% concentrated at all times.

Five Metres Distance



Unless you allow the quick taking of a free hit to the fair advantage of the team in possession of the ball, remember that you must insist on the 5 metres distance (where applicable). This action allows the players the required space and will prevent unnecessary additional offences.

Early in the game, if the players are not 5 metres from the ball, you should whistle a second time and hold up your hand with all fingers splayed (open). Give clear messages, give a free hit or a penalty against them. Thereafter the captains will discipline their teams as they will not want a free hit against them. Keep this up and you will not have any problems. However, please do not indicate you are requiring 5 metres and then allow a player to remain only 3 or 4 metres away.

REMINDERS

To remain on the active level 1 umpires register and therefore be eligible to umpire league matches next season 6 match cards should be completed and returned to Peter Lovell before 30th June 2002.

Anyone experiencing problems with this should contact Peter without delay.

Next season's cards will be sent to all active Level 1s as soon as they become available.

Annual General Meeting

This years AGM of the Association has
been set for

Tuesday 23rd April at 7.30pm
At

Bristol University Sports Pavilion
Coombe Dingle

The bar will be open.

Please make every effort to attend

**If you require directions please contact any
member of the committee**



Supporting newly qualified umpires

With the high attendance on this year's Level 1 umpiring course, it is expected that there will be more newly qualified umpires in the coming season than there has been for several seasons.

Please ensure you give these people your support and encouragement, remember what it was like when you first qualified.

Should anyone in your club be looking to take their Level 1 qualification encourage them to get in contact with Peter Lovell

Dear Marge



Your questions answered!

Dear Marge,

I was recently criticised by players for insisting on everybody being 5 yards from the circle at a defensive free hit. At the time I waved all objections away and kept the game going. Afterwards, in discussion with the players they reminded me that there has been a rule change in this respect.

As I consider myself to be well informed and up to date with the rules and their changes I felt it may be beneficial to point this out to other umpires who may have missed it.

Regards,
Caught Out

Dear Caught Out,

Thank you for a timely reminder – I'm sure it is one of those small changes that get overlooked in the pre-season outpourings from the Rules Board.



Dear Marge,

At a recent men's game which I was watching, one umpire left at half time and another person took his place. He was not injured as he sprinted to his car. We were not unhappy with change as this particular umpire seemed to be very biased and gave goal scoring opportunities to his team as often as possible! I thought this type of change was not allowed except in the case of injury.
Confused

Dear Confused,

It really depends on what type of game you were watching. If it was a league game then the rules do say that the same umpire must umpire the whole game. However if it was a friendly or local cup game the rules do not specify that it should be the same umpire for the whole of the game. There are penalties in the women's game for a breach of these rules

but as I "go to press" I have not got a copy of the Men's rules to hand so cannot comment on their wording at the moment. Sorry!



Dear Marge,

There was uproar in a high-level game I watched last week!

The team attacking had a very hard and low shot at goal in the circle. The ball hit someone/stick (?) and ricocheted into the top right hand corner of the goal. Goal, we thought, but no. The umpire gave a hit out, presumably thinking that the ball had hit the attacking team. The players went ballistic! The umpires conferred and then gave a penalty corner!

Surely, if the umpires agreed it was a foul by the defence, then the goal should stand? As this then signalled the end of the game I expect the players gave the umpires a lot of stick as they came off the pitch!
Disappointed in the end!

Dear Disappointed in the end!

Your version of the events is certainly making me think that a goal should have been given. There is nothing to prevent the umpires, once they had agreed that the ball hit a defender in the circle, awarding the goal. I feel however, that this is an example of how difficult it can be for an umpire, albeit at top level, to be able to withstand the demonstrations of players if they feel they have been wronged. Undue pressure from teams especially if prolonged and loud, can undermine the most equitable of umpires and force them to into making mistakes.

Players and coaches take note – pressure from abusive comments makes umpires worse not better!



CAPTION COMPETITION



Some entries (that were printable) for last month's competition were :

“Just testing for gas”

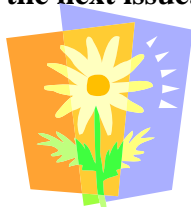
“I recognise the face but I can't put a name to it”

But the winner sent to us by Chris Mayo is:

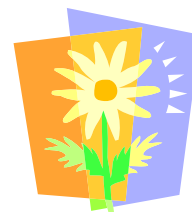
“I've just remembered where I parked my bike”

Congratulations Chris a bottle of wine is on it's way.

There is no caption competition this issue but the popular competition will return in the next issue.



SUMMER LEAGUE 2002



Once again this season we will be running a summer league at Coombe Dingle. Please see below the fixture list. Once again this season there will be opportunities for umpires to receive coaching or purely a chance to keep your eye in – should you wish to be involved please contact Janet Wilson or Peter Lovell at your earliest convenience.

Date		7pm		8.15pm
9 th May		Yate	V Winscombe	Westberries
13 th May		Yatton	V Jaspers	Redland
16 th May	Firebrands	V Yate	Old Bristolians	V Clifton
20 th May	Yate	V Yatton	Bath	V BAC
23 rd May	Redland	V Firebrands	Jaspers	V Winscombe
27 th May	Westberries	V Old Bristolians	Winscombe	V BAC
30 th May	Clifton	V Firebrands	Yate	V Jaspers
10 th June	BAC	V Redland	Yate	V Bath
13 th June	Winscombe	V Yatton	Winscombe	V Firebrands
17 th June	Clifton	V BAC	Yate	V Westberries
20 th June	Jaspers	V Clifton	Firebrands	V Bath
24 th June	BAC	V Yate	Old Bristolians	V Yatton
27 th June	Clifton	V Yate	Bath	V Clifton
1 st July	Winscombe	V Yate	Westberries	V Jaspers
4 th July	Winscombe	V Old Bristolians	Redland	V Bath
8 th July	Clifton	V Yate	Yatton	V Clifton
11 th July	Winscombe	V Westberries	Bath	V Winscombe
15 th July	Yate	V Redland	Old Bristolians	V Jaspers
18 th July	Westberries	V Yatton	Clifton	V Winscombe
22 nd July	Firebrands	V BAC	Old Bristolians	V Yate
25 th July	Winscombe	V Clifton	Redland	V Winscombe

Fixtures shown in **Bold** are Division 1



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 February	Under 17 counties tournament Adjudicator: Liz Powell Umpire Mentor: Peter Lovell	Richard Powell Jeanette Bokacz Gill Prophet Simon Croucher
10 th February	Under 15 counties tournament Adjudicator: Liz Powell Umpire Mentor: Richard Powell	Julia Brum Carolyn Britton Jo Dee Simon Croucher Jo Sheppard Val Harding Peter Lovell
17 th February	Under 14 counties tournament Adjudicator: Lynda Watts Umpire Mentor: Peter Lovell	Carolyn Britton Gill Prophet Janet Wilson Jo Dee Jo Sheppard Lyn Thacker
10 th March	Under 19 Clubs Umpire Mentor: Liz Powell	Peter Lovell Gill Prophet Simon Croucher Jeanette Bokacz
24 th March	Mini Hockey Finals Umpire Manager: Peter Lovell	Simon Croucher Carolyn Britton Jo Sheppard Jo Dee Val Harding

Our thanks congratulations go to all those involved.



Web Site



Relaunched
Yes we have relaunched our web site

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

www.acwhua.freehosting.net

Please visit and let us have your comments.

Our grateful thanks to Terry Watts who did a lot of the really hard work.