

# AGM Newsletter

Volume 38 September 2002

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The start of another season beckons. I know that many of you have been involved in the various summer leagues which take place and have therefore kept your eye in.

Our summer league held at Coomb Dingle has again been very successful as we have tested a large number of Level 1 candidates and a large number of for yearly reassessments. The League was also used to coach several of our top Level 1 umpires. I take this opportunity to thank the teams, umpires and coaches for their hard work throughout the summer, we could not have done it without you.

It has come to our attention that some of you are umpiring matches (mixed matches mainly) on you own. This is in contravention of the Rules of Hockey and therefore negates your insurance cover. Be strong say NO and keep yourself covered. Better still persuade someone else to get their umpiring qualification and spread the load.

Many of you will know the problems which John has had with his hip over the past couple of years. However some of you may not know that he has had his hip replacement operation and is well on the road to recovery and is now only using one stick the wrong way up. We all send you our best wishes for a continued speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you out and about in the very near future.

Those of you who attended the AGM in May will know that as an Association we donated £200 to the Active Sport programme for the area. This programme is designed to get more people playing and umpiring the sport we love. The programme is of five years duration and is in its early days, but as an Association we are already benefiting from the programme as our coaches have been receiving subsidised coach education courses. In return our coaches will be working to tempt new umpires to pick up the whistle and to take them through courses with a view to qualification.

Congratulations to Val Harding who during the summer league has gained her Level 1 Umpire Coach award.

There are almost 20 newly qualified umpires starting their first season shortly. I would ask that the more experienced umpires amongst you look out for and help these umpires during the forthcoming season. They are likely to be nervous and may need a boost to their confidence. Help them to help you.

Finally I wish you an enjoyable and successful season, and don't forget we are here to help you so do not be afraid to contact any committee member or one of our willing helpers.

Gill

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## Mentoring for Newly Qualified Umpires

Hi everybody,

I promised I would write a short article on the proposed system of supporting newly qualified umpires which we discussed at the AGM. Basically we want to provide a network of experienced umpires who can offer support and guidance to those who are newly qualified level one umpires. It will include those who have qualified within the last year including those from last year's summer league.

With all the other progress we have made and the wealth of umpires we now have in our area we felt it is time to give it a try, but we can't do it all on our own. We need help from you. We want to help those would like it, and it is purely optional, by providing someone (a mentor) they can talk to and ask questions of either in person or on the phone. I want to stress this is not a coaching role; we have qualified people who can help with that but a friendly face that will provide support.

We would like to start this year and invite those who are new umpires and those of you who have expressed an interest to act as a mentor to a meeting in September at UWE. It will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> in room 3A04. If you would like to be included in either area please give me a ring or just turn up on the night.

Commitment of mentors will be:-

- Team get together about every 2/3 months to enable consistency and feedback
- Contact with new umpire by telephone initially
- Feedback to co-ordinator

We would like mentors to arrive at 7pm so that we can discuss the type of help we can provide and new umpires at 8pm.

There will be a meeting for the coaches at 9pm.

Please feel free to contact me if you want more details and I look forward to seeing you in September.

**Lynda Watts**



### **Committee**

**Chairman:**

**Gill Prophet 0117 - 9652716**

**Secretary:**

**Peter Lovell 0117 - 9091025**

**Treasurer:**

**Bob Pearce 0117 - 9622139**

**Committee:**

**Josephine Dee**

**Liz Powell**

**Mandy Sanderson**

**Lynda Watts**

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2003.

This is now a requirement of English Hockey Ltd.

Next season's cards have been sent with this Newsletter, if for any reason yours has not arrived please contact Peter Lovell as soon as possible on 0117-9091025

### INSURANCE

**As part of your membership fee the Association takes out on your behalf Civil Liability Insurance with PERKINS SLADE**

#### **What does this cover?**

It covers legal liability for damages and legal costs arising out of third party loss, injury or damage in connection with your activities as an English Hockey Affiliated Umpire.

The policy includes Public and Products Liability in addition to Professional Indemnity.

Limit of Indemnity £5,000,000 any one occurrence (in the aggregate in respect of Products Liability).

**In the event of a claim you should contact Bob Pearce immediately**

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**Should you require personal accident insurance Perkins Slade are able to offer this also at reasonable charges – Contact Bob for further details.**

### **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 on 0117-9091025

# Dear Marge



## Your questions answered!

### Commonwealth Games, Manchester 2002

Well, what a mess!

Where did your sympathies lie, with the England team, the umpire or the technical table?

For those of you who don't know to what I am referring, it is the incident in the Women's final at Manchester where, in extra time with a golden goal to decide the gold medal winners, the hooter was blown in the middle of a short corner. As it was blown the Indian forwards managed to push the ball from beneath the English GK and put it in the net.

At this point the Umpire looked as though she was about to give the goal but then changed her signals and crossed her hands low across her body. Was she indicating no goal or that the hooter to end the half had gone before the ball crossed the line?

Whatever was in her mind, she panicked!

Who was to blame? Definitely the technical official who put their finger on the hooter and pressed! At major tournaments the issue of penalty corners at the end of time is discussed prior to the first matches and decisions made as to how the table will communicate with the umpires if the situation arises. How the officials got it wrong is beyond those of us in the West who are experienced in these things! But what a talking point! And what an illustration of how pressure can play its part even towards the end of a game when we would normally expect nervous umpires to have "settled in"! My advice to those of you who feel under pressure at any time in the game is to try to stay calm and check with your colleague if BIG decisions are questioned. It will give you time to become more composed and give the players a chance to take a breather too. You will have seen it happened quite often at these Games.

For the incident at Manchester my advice to the umpire would have been to signal to stop the clock and calmly check with her colleague (I know the hooter had gone but to use the usual signal means that everyone is aware of your intent). Then, and only then, give a clear

signal as to what had been decided. The end of a very good match would not then have been marred.

At tournaments the decisions made by the umpires cannot be challenged except by the captain on the field of play at the time of the incident. The English management team were allowed to appeal, as it was the technical officials who had made an error that in their opinion, influenced the outcome of the match.

Other items from the Games worth a mention -

a) The number of times stick interference took place - I was surprised at the poor tackling from our top players. I felt the umpires did reasonably well in picking up those that need to be blown and in playing advantage where possible but I've seen less stick tackles in local league games! Are top players using it as a tactic nowadays?

b) Lack of cards given for deliberate break down of play - very patchy in my opinion! Certainly in the men's games there were many occasions where a card should have been given in the middle of the field or a penalty corner in the 25, yet nothing was given. I realise that the umpire's manager would have given guidelines to the umpires re issuing cards but as we are not party to their discussions and decisions we can only surmise that the umpires were told to be lenient! I do, however, think that one of the major problems in the game today at local level, is the inability of umpires to see where a foul is deliberate or not.

### Another discussion for another time perhaps.

In comparison to the players, did any one else feel the umpires looked a little old fashioned in their dress? Maybe we ought to be looking for something similar to the netball-players kit?! Suggestions on a postcard please!

Only a few weeks to the beginning of the League season - are you all getting fit? Don't leave it until the last minute, start now by joining your player friends for a run around! Enjoy!





## SUMMER LEAGUE 2002

### Final Tables



#### Division 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Points
Firebrands	6	6	0	0	17	3	18
Yate 1	6	4	1	1	15	8	13
Clifton A	6	4	0	2	12	6	12
Redland	6	2	2	2	12	10	8
BAC	6	1	2	3	5	7	5
Bath	6	0	2	4	3	14	2
Winscombe 1	6	0	1	5	3	17	1

#### Division 2

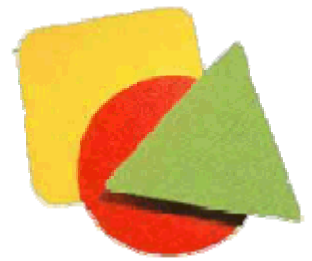
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Points
Clifton 2	6	4	1	1	22	13	13
Jaspers	6	4	1	1	13	11	13
Old Bristolians	6	4	0	2	14	10	12
Yate 2	6	2	2	2	9	13	8
Westberries	6	2	1	3	11	13	7
Winscombe 2	6	1	2	3	9	16	5
Yatton	6	0	3	3	10	22	3

**Sixteen umpires were successfully reassessed.  
Thirteen umpires gained their Level 1 Umpire Award.**



The summer league has proved to be another very successful event and the committee wish to thank all the teams, umpires and coaches for their continued support. A special vote of thanks goes to **Janet Wilson** who once again organised the league on our behalf.

You may be reading this newsletter which has been sent by email for the first time or you might not have noticed any difference. In order to keep costs down the Association has decided to send as many newsletters as we can through the electronic medium. We anticipate that had we not taken this course of action each newsletter was going to cost approximately £200 to print and post. Money we felt could be put to better use helping to get more umpires qualified.



## Diary of Events 2002/2003

Please see below events that will be taking place during the coming season.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Under 21 County Tournament	Clifton College
17 <sup>th</sup> September	ASHUA Open Evening	Old Bristolian's Clubhouse
28 <sup>th</sup> September	League starts	
5 <sup>th</sup> October	League	
12 <sup>th</sup> October	League	
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	League	
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Under 19 County Tournament	Clifton College
9 <sup>th</sup> November	League	
16 <sup>th</sup> November	League	
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Under 14 Schools	Clifton College
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	League	
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Under 16 Schools	Clifton College
30 <sup>th</sup> November	League	
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Under 18 Schools	Clifton College
7 <sup>th</sup> December	League	
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Under 18 Regional Indoor Tournament	
25 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas</b>	
12 <sup>th</sup> January	Under 16 Regional Schools Indoor	
18 <sup>th</sup> January	League	
25 <sup>th</sup> January	League	
1 <sup>st</sup> February	League	
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Under 17 County Tournament	Clifton College
8 <sup>th</sup> February	League	
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Under 15 County Tournament	Clifton College
15 <sup>th</sup> February	League	
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Under 14 County Tournament	Clifton College
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Under 11 & Under 13 Minis	Clifton College
8 <sup>th</sup> March	League	
15 <sup>th</sup> March	League	
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	League	

# Open Evening

The Men's Association (ASHUA) are to hold a coaching/rules etc. evening on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm at Old Bristolian's Clubhouse.

Any of our members wishing to attend will be more than welcome.