

Newsletter

Volume 40 April 2003

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The end of another season is almost upon us, and I trust that you had an enjoyable and good season. I would ask you all to take a few minutes to reflect upon the season and ask yourself the following questions:

- 1) Did I enjoy my umpiring?
- 2) Would I like to umpire at a higher level?
- 3) Did my colleague and I always work as a team?
- 4) Did I support my colleague on every occasion it was required?
- 5) If I wanted support from my colleague was it offered and did I take it?
- 6) Did I duck out of making that difficult decision?
- 7) What do I want to achieve from my umpiring next season?

Now whilst it is fresh in your mind it is the time to set yourself some goals for next season. Don't forget that we are again running our summer league and that if you would like some coaching this can be accommodated during this. All you need to do is to ask either Pete Lovell or myself. Please do not be afraid to ask any of the Committee for guidance if you have any questions – we love to help!!!

Congratulations go to all those who have gained their Level 1 during the season and to Simon Croucher on gaining his Level 2 umpire award.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Committee for their hard work throughout the season, it has again been a pleasure to work with them.

Also a big thanks to John Burr, John James, Janet Wilson and Val Harding for all their hard work during the season helping with coaching, reassessing and summer league.

This season has also seen us linking with the University of the West of England and in particular with Richard Bennett who has assisted us in providing facilities for our Level 1 course and training matches for coaching candidates.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped.

Best wishes

Gill



Mentoring for newly qualified level 1 umpires.

I just wanted to remind everyone that we have been trying to pilot a mentoring programme for newly qualified umpires this year. It has been a fairly slow process, with people unsure how to approach each other or really what to discuss in some cases. In either case it doesn't really matter it up to the mentee to get what they want from the programme either a lot or little, it is entirely up to them. This is only the start, hopefully, and I am very keen to find out peoples views in time for the AGM when I will be asking if people want to continue with it.



Both mentees and mentors need to get something out of the programme if it is to be of any benefit. If any one has any comments please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail (lyndawatts@hotmail.com).

I will be e-mailing all participants this year with an evaluation form to try and get some formal feedback soon.

If any mentee who would like coaching over the summer league could they please let me know as soon as possible.

Many thanks

Lynda

REMINDER

**Have you completed your six match cards.
If so don't delay, send them back now and reduce the risk of losing them.**

This is now a requirement of English Hockey Ltd.

If you have mislaid or simply never had a six-match card please contact Peter Lovell as soon as possible on 0117-9091025

Alternatively if you need more games to fill your card why not get in contact with Liz Powell on 0117 949 8571 who is organising the umpires for this year's summer league at Coombe Dingle.



HEAD TURNING

When making your signals, try to make sure that you face the play and avoid getting into the habit of turning your head away in the direction of your signal. It is almost an involuntary habit and many umpires are guilty of doing it. At any level of hockey, it is essential to keep your eyes on the game throughout the game and that includes those times when the ball goes out of play or when your colleague awards a penalty corner. Your attention is vital.

One of the strongest tools the umpires have is eye-contact; firstly to demonstrate confidence in their decisions (by looking at the players when making signals) and secondly to look at each other and offer supporting or assisting signals when they are required.

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 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 reactions / 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 quite often irrelevant and inaccurate.



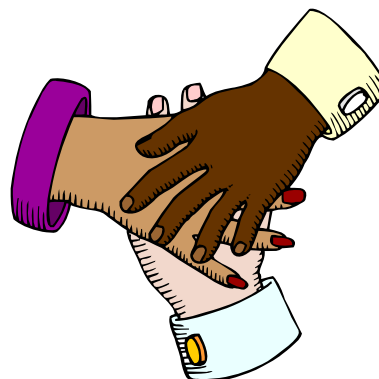
In an important game, immediately after the game, move away from the players and their coaches. Imagine if you were a player who had just lost a game, a game you expected to win and maybe you had trained for months or more. It is very likely that you would be upset and you might well in the heat of the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

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 in the game. You made the 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 if you are in a tournament situation are strongly recommended. These discussions are you beneficial to you and also to the 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.

CAPTAINS

The responsibilities of the team captain are very clear. Do not attempt to take over their tasks. They are responsible for the good conduct of the players (including the team bench). However, if the captain fails to maintain the good conduct of their team, you as the umpire must intervene.



Dear Marge



Your questions answered!



Dear Marge,

In a recent women's league match I found my colleague to be an official from the West Men's League. He was very nice and helpful but in our pre-match chat he asked me to stand in a strange place for penalty corners at his end.

He asked me to stand in his 25yd area in line with his far post! He explained that this would help him to ensure that any shot at goal which was very close to the post went inside or outside the posts and if there was any incident where he would need to decide on a stroke or PC I would be in a position to help him.

I agreed to do this but the first occasion I did in the game the defence made a quick break and I was left high and dry! I was obviously wary after that and placed myself closer to my own half on future occasions.

What do I do in future? He was obviously an experienced and competent umpire but I feel that he was asking too much of his colleague.

"Stuffed"



Dear Stuffed!

Thank you for your letter. It raises a point that West umpires have debated in the past. The position your colleague asked you to adopt was considered to be useful at higher

levels of play or in the men's game where players had a very strong shot from PC's. It is sometimes used in matches where it is clear to the disengaged umpire that their colleague is under pressure with play in the circle and their view is obstructed (i.e. when it is close to the far post and the GK effectively cuts off the umpire's view). The disengaged umpires will then decide to position themselves where they can assist. The big disadvantage to taking up this position is that you are not ready to umpire your area if the defence make a break down your side of the pitch.

However, in this instance, without being unkind to the teams, the likelihood of the hard, strong shot situation arising will be very small. Your colleague may become unsighted in a game quite easily so, as their colleague, be aware and ready to move into a helpful position if needed.

The advice I would offer if someone asks you to take up this position is to decline. Agree that it can be useful but at West Women's League level it is not a priority. Your priority is to be able to umpire your area of the pitch without error and to do this you need to be ready for the quick break. Agree to move into the pitch if it is obvious that your colleague has become unsighted in the circle. That I feel is good cooperation!



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

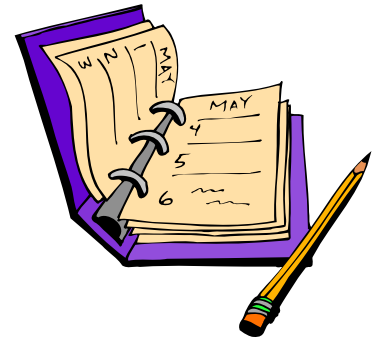




Diary of Events 2003/2004

Please see below the provisional dates for events that will be taking place throughout next season.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1st September	European Cup in Barcelona
6 th September	U21 Regional County
27 th September	League
4 th October	League
11 th October	League
18 th October	U15 & U17 Regional Tournaments
19 th October	U15 & U17 Regional Tournaments
1 st November	League
2 nd November	U19 Regional County
8 th November	League
15 th November	League
22 nd November	League
29 th November	League
6 th December	League
25th December	Christmas
10 th January	League
17 th January	League
24 th January	League
31 st January	League
1 st February	U17 Regional County
7 th February	League
15 th February	U14 Regional County
28 th February	League
6 th March	League
13 th March	League
14 th March	U11 & U13 Mini Regional Tournament
20 th March	League
21 st March	U18 Regional Club
9th April	Good Friday
17 th April	Regional Senior Counties
18 th April	Regional Senior Counties
24 th April	Regional Club Vets
25 th April	Regional Club Vets



NB These dates are still provisional and are subject to change.



MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership is now due and a membership renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter. It is proposed to increase subs this year to £10.

For this you will receive:

- **Insurance**, which will cover you against public liability whilst umpiring, something that is becoming increasingly necessary in these days of litigation.
- Regular Newsletters.
- A current rulebook. (NB Latest information from Hockey England suggests that the rulebook will not be reprinted for the coming season, an addendum will be issued, so please keep hold of your 2002/2003 edition)
- Plenty of information and advice.

