

# Newsletter

Volume 41 September 2003

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The new season approaches and with it the start of a new level 1 course (see details later in this newsletter). If you know anyone who would like to participate make sure they fill in a registration form and get it back to Peter Lovell ASAP.

Enough of looking forward, for the time being I wish to use this piece to reflect on what your Association has been up to in the last twelve months.

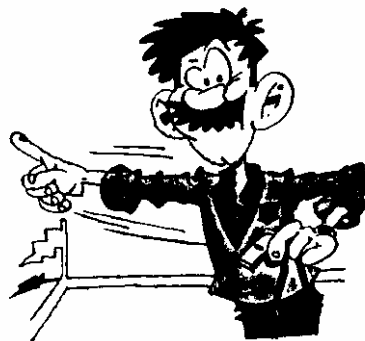
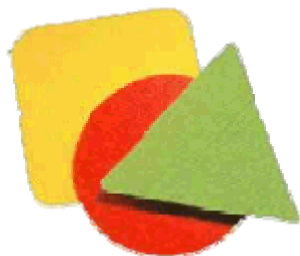
- In September 2002 we launched our level 1 course with a full day seminar – 20 people attended.
- In October & November we held 2 rules evenings for the candidates and 17 took their theory paper and passed.
- Since then all candidates have received practical coaching at the UWE and during the summer league.
- 14 candidates have now successfully completed the course, 1 has failed and the remainder are held over to the start of next season, but we anticipate these will be successful.
- In February we held a level 1 course at Bath University and all 12 candidates were

successful in their theory exam. They will be progressed through the rest of their qualification in the autumn.

- We have taken 11 young umpires through the Young Umpires Award by running two courses, one in December and One in May.
- During our summer league more good work has been done
  1. 3 previously inactive umpires have been coached and reassessed and added to the active list.
  2. 4 umpires have been watched and coached and passed their 4 yearly assessment.
  3. 10 top level 1 umpires have been coached and given a chance to umpire with level 2 umpires.

12 coaches have been used during the season to undertake all the above activities and my grateful thanks go to them all for the many hours they have given. In addition two new level 1 umpire coach candidates have been registered with a view to bolstering our ranks. Our coaches have also been attending Child Protection courses and Equity in Coaching courses with the help of Active Sport and all now have these qualifications

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and several of our coaches have been CRB checked' As you can see we have been busy and I would like to share with you a few comparisons.

In the last 12 months this association was responsible for over half the new level 1s who qualified in the whole of the South West. We, along with Gloucestershire provide in excess of 90% of umpires for WHA women's competitions and our coaches assist adjacent counties with



coaching and testing of their level 1s.

As you can see we are extremely busy and although it is nearly impossible we try to help clubs who are unable to find umpires late on a Friday night.

Best wishes for the forthcoming season.

Gill

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## 2003/4 Committee



	Telephone	Added Responsibilities
Gill Prophet – Chairman	0117 965 2716	Representative on West Umpiring Sub Committee
Peter Lovell – Secretary	0117 909 1025	Newsletter editor and liaison with Somerset ladies and ASHA.
Bob Pearce – Treasurer	0117 978 5158	Coordinator of newly qualified mentoring scheme
Carolyn Britton	01454 951 182	Level 1 course coordinator
Jo Dee	01454 320 603	Young umpires and Active Sport liaison
Justine Nicklin	01454 851 182	Summer league coordinator
Liz Powell	0117 949 8571	Progression group
Mandy Sanderson	0117 373 5758	Reassessment coordinator

**Please contact any member of the committee if you have a question or need advice.**

# Dear Marge



Dear Marge,

I believe that in the rules which come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> September the ball does not have to be stopped before a shot at goal; does the ball still have to be lower than 18 inches when it crosses the goal line or are we still thinking about danger at this point?

Guidance Seeker

*Dear Guidance Seeker,  
What a tricky question! The answer is no – the ball must still cross the goal line below 18 inches.*

*The mandatory experimental rule from FIH for this coming season states that the ball is not required to be stopped before a shot at goal at a penalty corner.*

This does not mean that danger is not considered – in fact it becomes much more important as less skilful players may undercut the ball unintentionally sending it any which

way! A rising ball into several defenders running out from the goal line will always be dangerous and need penalising.

However, (have you noticed how there is never a straight forward answer to Dear Marge queries?) if the ball is not rising and not into players in a normal play situation, do not penalise the shot. I have seen too many perfectly good goals disallowed because the ball was in the air rather than because of it's danger.

**NB** I think it is worth pointing out that there are other proposed amendments to rules/interpretations being considered for action from 1<sup>st</sup> January. More on this will be known shortly and details will then be passed out to all members.

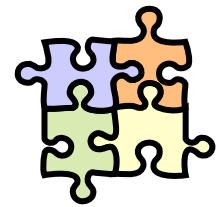


## MEMBERSHIP

**Annual membership is now due and a membership renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter if you have not yet renewed. The membership fee this year is £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.**



## MANDATORY EXPERIMENTAL RULES

**All players, coaches, umpires and teachers should be aware of the following Mandatory Experimental Rules, which take effect from 01 September 2003.**

**Rule 13.1.1.e** is amended to read: "Players shall not play the ball above shoulder height with any part of their sticks except that defenders may use their sticks to stop or deflect a shot at goal at any height unless dangerous or likely to lead to dangerous play."

This change is intended to be fair to defenders. It gives defenders the opportunity to save high shots at goal, which they otherwise cannot do legitimately.

**Rule 15.2.1.j** is amended to read: "Penalty corner - no shot at goal shall be made until the ball has travelled outside the circle."

This means that the ball is not required to be stopped before a shot at goal at a penalty corner. All other requirements for taking a penalty corner continue to apply.

This change is intended to make the game simpler for everyone to understand and enjoy. It will also lead to more variation in the options employed by attackers at penalty corners and therefore, to more interesting play.

The impact of these two changes on the game will be monitored by England Hockey along with all other National Associations/Organisations and, at the end of the Season, a report shall be sent to the FIH detailing the outcome. The FIH Hockey Rules Board will consider whether the changes should become substantive Rules rather than Mandatory Experiments.

Simplification of the Rules and clearer expression of them in the Rules Book is currently a major focus of the work of the FIH Hockey Rules Board. The content and format of the Rules text is being comprehensively reviewed and will be introduced from 01 January 2004.

Thereafter the Rules will be published with an annual implementation date of 01 January to enable FIH and National Associations to plan to a fixed schedule.

**NB there are no rulebooks being printed for this season, so please make sure you attach this page to your current rulebook as an addendum.**





### **This Month's Caption Competition**

Think of a funny caption for the picture on the left and you could be the lucky winner of either a bottle of wine or a pealess whistle.

Send your entries to:  
[peterlovell@tesco.net](mailto:peterlovell@tesco.net) or  
phone 0117 909 1025

Join in the fun, you have nothing to lose.

### **It's A Funny Old World**

Thanks to John Burr for these two amusing tales:

A man boards a bus with both of his front pockets full of golf balls. He sits down next to a beautiful - you guessed it - blonde. The blonde keeps glancing quizzically at him and his bulging pockets. Finally, after many such glances from her, he says, embarrassed: "It's golf balls".

The blonde continues to look at him thoughtfully and finally, unable to contain her curiosity any longer, asks: "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?"

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Finally, news just in of a worldwide survey conducted by the UN. The only question asked was:

" Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?"

The survey was a huge failure.

In much of Africa they didn't know what "food" meant.

In much of Eastern Europe they didn't know what "honest" meant.

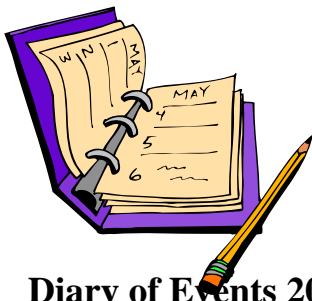
In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant.

In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant.

In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant.

And in the US they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.





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

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

