

Newsletter

Volume 44 April 2005

I write this as my last entry into the newsletter in reflective mood. Five years seems to have flown by and I have enjoyed my time as Chairman of the Association, however this last 4 months have been the most difficult as it has seen the death of one of our founder members who was made a life member at our last AGM. As many of you will know Richard Powell spent the majority of 2004 battling with cancer, but this was one match that he could not win and which he lost in March. For those of you who attended the church service to celebrate his life I feel sure you will be pleased to see that our lead article is the tribute that Jo Pennycook gave at the service. Our thoughts are with Liz and his children and we look forward to seeing Liz out there doing what she does best.

Moving on to more positive things the Association is again running its Summer League at Coombe Dingle and this year for the first time it will consist of two divisions of 7 teams. If you would like to get some coaching or would just like to come along to watch and have a chat with one of the coaches please feel welcome. Matches will take place on a Monday and Thursday evening with the first match starting at 7.15pm. If you wish to be coached please contact Justin Nicklin as she is organising the schedule.

I have been able to enjoy the time I have spent as Chairman because I have had an exceedingly hard working committee throughout the period and my sincere thanks go to all of you who have served on the committee during the last five years. Our set up and the level of work we undertake is the envy of the rest of the west country!! Other county reps at west meetings hate giving their reports after I have given ours. We also have a very active group of coaches who help the committee to test, reassess and coach umpires and candidates and who give of their time freely – my thanks go to them for their unstinting work.

The Association is aware that there are not enough umpires to meet the demands in the County and region and endeavours to increase the number of qualified umpires. However, during the period I have been Chairman we have only managed to keep pace with those who have withdrawn from umpiring. I would ask the players and clubs to seriously look at their behaviour on the pitch and to think of how they could improve this situation.

I wish the future committee and all umpires the very best for the future and thank you all for giving me the honour of serving you as Chairman.

Gill

Hockey Testimony for Richard Powell
(Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church, 24th March 2005)



Richard Powell
1936 - 2005

When Liz first asked me to do this, I was honoured but also a little daunted, especially when she said that I only had 3 minutes in which to try and capture the essence of Richard and hockey.

Over the past few days I have spoken to many people to try and get a flavour of the man and how he will be remembered. There is too much to say in so brief a space of time, but I hope that what I do say will jog a few memories and even raise a few wry smiles!

Richard was variously described as “energetic” and “exhausting”, “cuddly” and “compassionate”. A theme very quickly developed of a much loved and well-respected man who will be sadly missed by many.

Richard first started playing school hockey at the age of 10. He later went into the Army for his National Service and was the only squaddy in his team. He served in Kenya at the time of the Mau Mau rebellions when servicemen had to remain armed at all times. He would tell of one game in which he umpired running up and down the pitch with the rest of the team’s fully loaded guns slung round his neck – perhaps the source of the authority he was later to command with the whistle!

After he left the Army, Richard played for Henleaze and then the YMCA clubs. Apart from a brief comeback for the Official Revenge umpires’ touring team, he stopped playing aged 48.

He then started to umpire on a regular basis. It was at this point that he met Liz, or rather she saw him umpiring. Liz clearly liked something in his rather individual style and offered Richard some coaching. It was then that he made his move to the Women’s game and the rest, as they say, is history!

Richard got his “C” badge in Spring 1985 and progressed to his Men’s Register badge in December of that year. Never standing still, he also took up coaching and was awarded his Level 2 coaching badge in 1997.

So, how will Richard be remembered?

I have spoken to several players, including some who may have been considered more of a challenge by Richard! They all spoke of their respect for him. He was an umpire they were always pleased to see arrive pitch side. They knew that they could rely upon Richard to provide a well-umpired game, officiated fairly but firmly, with consistency but also with humour. His decisiveness and knowledge of the game silenced nearly all but the most vociferous dissenters on the pitch!

Of course, Richard’s influence was most profoundly felt by his many umpiring colleagues. We were always pleased to be paired with him as we also knew that we would get a good game and have an enjoyable day both on and off the pitch.

I was told that Richard added an extra spring to the step of those appointed to umpire with him. He had a huge wealth of experience and would calm even the most heated situations, supporting his colleague especially when under pressure. Even so, he had an uncanny knack of drawing the play towards him and I was told several tales of him “hogging the game”!

Richard provided a role model to those other men who umpired with him. He was a mentor and leader to those umpires and many freely acknowledge that they could not have achieved all they have if he had not achieved so much before them.

Richard loved coaching and was a superb coach. He could assess an umpire’s game quickly and then deliver his debrief in a uniquely direct style. He would point out shortcomings but always offer clear and practical guidance on how to correct a fault and how to improve generally.

I was therefore surprised to hear of his own nervousness when being watched, whether at assessments or coachings, but perhaps this was just a symptom of the very high standards that he set for himself and always strove to achieve.

Richard not only took from hockey; he gave back as well. He and Liz were instrumental in establishing the Avon Umpires' Association and in recent years have led umpire development in the West. Richard served on various committees, often as Treasurer. His high standards and professionalism shone in this environment. He ran a tight ship and occasionally vented his utter frustration on those of us who were habitually late claiming expenses!

Richard was devoted to hockey. He was a passionate supporter of the Women's game in particular and was an articulate advocate for its cause; always seeking to ensure it received proper recognition and maintained its individuality.

I spoke a few minutes ago about the development of a theme. Richard was a man of boundless energy who gave 100% commitment to all that he did. He enthusiastically supported hockey at all levels and nothing was ever too much for him to do. His energy was infectious and inspired all around him.

On a personal level I treasured my time with Richard. I will always be grateful to him for his friendship and support. He was a man of incredible integrity, a valued confidant and a close friend. Richard Powell was a true gentleman who simply said will be sadly missed, but very fondly remembered by all those in hockey whose lives were touched by him.

Jo Pennycook

Richard gave a great deal of time and enthusiasm to this Association and will be greatly missed by all involved. Our thoughts and best wishes go to his widow, Liz.

On a personal note, I will always regard Richard as one of the best friends one could ever have, always willing to help in whatever way he could.

Editor

VOLUNTEER

It's time to channel some of that energy into local sport clubs and groups in need of volunteered support! As a user of the Coombe Dingle Complex you already dedicate time and energy into getting and staying fit, we want you to give a some of that time and energy to help others do the same. The rewards are not as obvious as a 6 pack or drop in weight but you will get the feel good factor and volunteering can even enhance your CV if not your physique!

The Sport Volunteering Fair aims to bridge the gap between the supply and demand of sport volunteers in the local community and with your appreciation of exercise and dedication to personal fitness, you're just what we're looking for.

Need information on Coaching Qualifications, First Aid and Good Practice courses? Sports Coach UK, The Red Cross and Sports Leader UK will be at the event to provide that information. Mark Alleyne MBE and Dennis Stinchcombe MBE will also be there so why not join them and help make the event a success? With a gymnastics display and demonstration of wheelchair basketball, judo and boxing you will be entertained and we hope, encouraged to get involved.

For more information check out the event website at www.sportvolunteeringfair.co.uk or contact Sarah Troke at info@sportvolunteeringfair.co.uk or phone 0117 331 1167

Your Friends and Family are welcome to attend so spread the word and we hope to see you there!

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.**

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on:

**4th May 7.30pm
at the UWE Students Union in Blackberry Hill**

As has become customary there will be an open forum following the formal business.

Please make every effort to attend

Please see below rule clarification received from Hockey England

Rule Clarification

In recent days England Hockey has received a number of enquiries relating to Rule 13.3 of the FIH Hockey Rules (Outdoor Hockey) 2005. The Rule is '*Taking a Penalty Corner*'.

There have also been a number of questions / observations posted to a variety of websites.

The cause of the confusion is that the wording used in the 2004 edition differs from what is used in the 2005 edition. In the 2004 edition it read (13.3.j) "***No shot at goal is permitted until the ball has travelled outside the circle***" and the same Rule in the 2005 edition reads "***A goal cannot be scored until the ball has travelled outside the circle***".

This statement is being published by England Hockey in an attempt to provide the required clarification and importantly, so as to remove further confusion. It (the statement) is confirmed by the FIH Hockey Rules Board.

- No rule has been broken if an attacker shoots at goal before the ball has travelled outside the circle at a penalty corner;
- They may shoot – but they cannot score.

Few forums / enquirers have spotted a much more interesting scenario at a penalty corner:

- The ball is travelling towards the goal;
- But has not yet travelled outside the circle;
- A defender in the goal unintentionally stops the ball entering the goal with their body;
- Award?
- Penalty corner not penalty stroke;
- Rule 12.3.a applies and not 12.4.a – because a goal could not be scored!