

Newsletter

Volume 48 March 2006

Chairman's Letter

Here we are again nearing the end of another season. A long and arduous season which I hope has been enjoyable to you all.

As always your committee have been extremely busy during the year and we have had a total of 40 candidates on two level 1 courses all looking towards their accreditation by the end of the summer league.

A very big thank you to all of your committee.

Carolyn Britton, co-ordinator of the Level 1 courses, and to Justine Nicklin, organiser of the summer league, who again have put in some sterling work.

Janet Wilson took on the thankless task of co-ordinating the Level 1 reassessment programme and together with John Burr has done an excellent job in keeping this onerous task on schedule.

Liz Powell, as always has been very active organising the progression group, a further two Level 2s having come from it this season and other umpires, who I know have greatly appreciated her help and advice. Should anyone wish to be part of this group they should Email Liz.

Although the newly qualified mentoring did not take off in the way we envisaged, new umpires have found it comforting to know that there was someone there to help should they require it during those first tentative steps into umpiring.

Vicky Hollier has been instrumental in making this work. Regrettably Vicky has decided to stand down from committee this year and her knowledge of grass roots hockey will be greatly missed – thank you Vicky.

Your former Chairman, Gill Prophet has also decided to stand down this year having served for nine years on the committee, her dedication and attention to detail will be greatly missed, but we wish her well in all future activities.

Bob Pearce, despite having changed jobs, has again done sterling work as your Treasurer. Margaret Hollow, in her first year as secretary has found the job challenging, but has come through it with flying colours.

Congratulations to Nic Oliver who has successfully gained his Level 2 umpire award.

Congratulations also to those who have gained their Level 1 umpiring award this quarter, they are:

Alison Hill
Mandy Kerfoot
Alastair Timothy
David Talbot
Louise Bale
Claire Jones

Finally, Di Garry who has for thirty been involved in hockey as a player, umpire and administrator has decided it is time for a change, I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her well for the future.

Peter _____



ACWHA

Avon Junior Hockey League

If your Sunday's are quiet and you feel you would benefit from some fresh air and exercise you may want to learn more about the Avon Junior Hockey League. Approximately 4 years ago, through the Sports West active sports plan, funding was found to set up regular friendly fixtures for junior hockey players in the Avon region. The intention was to provide match experience for young players who were not yet playing in their senior teams or selected for County teams. The added bonus was that it also took some of the stress out of the coach's role as there were fixtures and venues pre-arranged leaving them to concentrate on training and travel arrangements!

The success of these fixtures resulted in a small band of volunteers forming the Avon Junior Hockey League 2 years later. With continued funding from Sports West we have seen participation grow from 35 teams in two age groups in 2004/05 to the current leagues comprising of some 53 teams in three age groups. Therefore on many of the Sundays from October to April you will find enthusiastic young hockey players at either the Gordano or Yate all weather pitches being cheered on by parents and team mates alike.

These games are not only an ideal opportunity for young players but should be seen as an ideal opportunity for young umpires and 'learning' umpires to get their whistles out and with coaching support learn the joys of enabling a group of young players to enjoy hockey win or loose. It is also probable that these leagues may also be an important part of the England Hockey plan for 2012, by providing age appropriate opportunities for young people to develop their hockey skills and understanding whether as a player or an umpire

The continued success of this league does depend on volunteers, umpires, coaches and the support of all the teams involved working together. If you would like more information or would like to become involved please see our website <http://members.lycos.co.uk/pskca/>. If you would like to come and see what it's all about for yourself final dates are as follows. U13 (Boys & Girls) on the 19th March at Priory School Weston, U11 (Mixed teams) 2nd April Yate & Gordano and the U15 (Boys & Girls) 9th April Priory School Weston.

**Should you require further information or want to get involved Email
Janet Wilson - Jans@wilsonj23.fsnet.co.uk**

Annual General Meeting

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place on Thursday 4th May at 7.30pm at Bristol University Sports Ground, Coombe Dingle, Bristol.

You will have with this Newsletter, nomination forms. With at least two committee members standing down this year it is imperative that we find people to join us. If you know of anyone who might be willing to stand please, please return your nomination forms as soon as possible.

Please make every effort to attend



Website: www.acwhua.com

Tips & Tricks

One thing I have found helps more than any other when trying to defuse dissent is to smile at the players. There is very little answer to this and in general I find that the players will smile back

Whilst umpiring I have noticed that many umpires, having awarded a short corner and then stopped time because of an injury, then wait until the ball and all players are in position before bringing time in again.

In my years of umpiring I have found it better to bring time in when the injury has been dealt with, I find if you wait the defence take the whistle to mean they can break immediately even though the ball may not have been injected. It is one less thing to worry about during the short corner



Should you have any tips you wish to pass on Email peter.lovell4@btinternet.com

Hockey in the New Year's Honours List

We are delighted to announce that Mary Eyre was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours list. We send our congratulations to Mary on this fantastic achievement.

Mary is a legendary figure in the world of hockey, having played at club, county and England levels and served in some capacity of other in the various west of England administration structures for the past 60 years. She has been totally dedicated to any role she has undertaken and in many quarters was regarded as a lynch pin of the West Hockey Association. At the age of 80, Mary still supports the West Hockey Association at regional tournaments and continues to be active with the East Gloucestershire Ladies Hockey Club. She has served Gloucestershire (as secretary for 60 years!!) and the West Hockey Association as President, and continues to be a very strong supporter of junior hockey, having encouraged many schoolgirls into the game.

In addition she has been an England hockey umpire and selector, and represented her country at cricket and played at junior Wimbledon.

She was nominated by Anne Baker - England Hockey's National Development Manager for Coaching, Sheila Plant - Chairman of Southern Counties Hockey Association, and Philip Kimberley - Executive Chairman of England Hockey.



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Richard Powell Memorial Award

Enclosed with this newsletter are the nomination for the inaugural Richard Powell Memorial Award.

The presentation will be made at the AGM and all members are encouraged to vote by return. One member one vote.

Please return your vote to Gill Prophet at the earliest convenience.

Change in the Rules

Field players using goalkeeping helmets while defending penalty corners

In line with the spirit of the guidance issued by FIH concerning player's safety, and pending clarification from the FIH, England Hockey has taken legal advice and subsequently decided to permit field players to wear protective goalkeeper style helmets while standing on the goal-line defending penalty corners. This will apply to both outdoor and the indoor hockey games with immediate effect.

Jane Nockolds (NDM Officiating, Technical & Volunteers) reported "As the FIH is ultimately responsible for setting the rules regarding player's safety this decision is purely a temporary and interim measure pending an anticipated FIH announcement in March 2006. England Hockey is keen to do everything possible to enable players to suitably protect themselves."

Detailed below are the exact guidelines to be issued to all clubs and local organisations / associations today 10th January 2006.

"When defending penalty corners, players on the goal line only may wear an appropriate protective helmet (which does not pose a risk of injury to other players). After the penalty corner has been taken the player must remove his helmet and place it behind the goal line before they may engage in normal playing activity. Should a player wearing a helmet actively seek to play the ball (other than to stop or deflect the ball while they are located on or near the goal line), a further penalty corner will be awarded. It should be noted that players that rush from the goal line to block an attacker's shot may not wear such a helmet."

Summer League

The Association will again be running a summer league. Whilst the priority will be given to the numerous candidates we have this year, opportunities will exist for other umpires to get further coaching should they require it.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity please contact Justine Nicklin at your earliest opportunity.

Email: justine18@blueyonder.co.uk



Website: www.acwhua.com

Dear Marge



Dear Marge,
In a recent match a player took a 16 yard hit out and it lifted. The umpire blew and declared the hit dangerous although it did not seem to be. The ensuing "discussion" meant that a short corner was given. Surely this is an unfair advantage to the attacking team?
Aggrieved

Dear Aggrieved,
There are two points to make here – one, that danger is at the discretion of the umpire and we have to respect their judgement. The second is that if players want to "discuss" issues that arise during the game then an umpire can upgrade the penalty already given.
The matter of the lifted ball is always difficult but I would be asking was the defensive player taking the hit trying to play the ball on the ground and it was a lack of skill that caused it to rise, or was she hitting at the ball in a manner which would cause it to rise?
If the answer was the former, ie a lack of skill, then ask if the ball went near to any player making them duck or move quickly out of the way? If not then play on – if players had to take evasive action then blow for a foul.
If the answer was the latter, ie the player was hitting at the ball in a manner which

would cause the ball to rise then blow immediately.

Dear Marge,
Could you settle a discussion for me please?
A side line ball to the attack is taken very close to the back line but is lifted dangerously; the umpire correctly, blows for a free hit to the defence. Where should the free hit be taken from – the place from where the side line ball was lifted or can players take the ball up to 16 yards as in the case of any other foul in the 16?
Confused

Dear Confused,
Because the umpire blew for a "foul" the defence can take the ball up to 16 yards. Blowing the lifted ball is a foul and can be treated like any other foul by the attack in the 16 yard area. But the defence can opt to take it from the spot too!
However, if the ball went off the pitch and the umpire gave a side line ball to the defence then it is not a foul situation and the team would have to play the ball down from where the ball crossed the line.

If you have any questions for Marge Email them to Liz Powell or any member of the committee.

Should you have any queries or require information please contact any member of the committee, however it would be helpful if in the first instance if you contacted the person responsible. Please also remember common courtesy i.e. no phone calls after 10pm and, if avoidable, no phone calls on Sundays



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