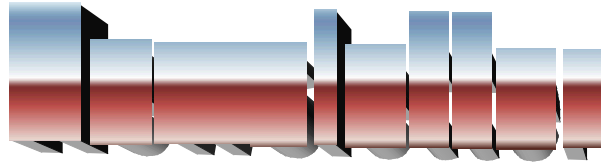


A



Volume 51

January 2008

Chairman's Letter

Once again we are entering yet another New Year and hopefully this newsletter finds you all fit and well and prepared to face the rest of the season, having enjoyed the festive cheer.

The season so far has been an extremely busy one for your committee and as usual they have rallied together to get through it.

There have been two level 1 umpire courses held so far this season and both have proved to be very successful. A course was held at the UWE over two Sundays at which there were thirteen candidates, seven of whom were under the age of 18. The second course was held at Bath University over a single Sunday, here there were a total of twenty nine candidates a further 3 being under the age of 18. All 42 candidates successfully passed their theory exam and therefore are eligible to umpire league games as stipulated in the league regulations.

With potentially so many inexperienced umpires now on the circuit, I draw your attention to an article by Carolyn Britton later in this newsletter, which will help you give these people the help and support they deserve.

With so many youngsters now involved in umpiring it is imperative that we are able to set up a Young Umpires Action Group within the County to assist and support them as they progress in the umpiring world. In the first instance we require someone to head this group and act as Chair. Unfortunately no one on the committee feels able to take up this role and give it the attention it so obviously

deserves, so, if you feel you have a little time to spare to help these youngsters and

would be willing to take on such a role, please contact any member of your committee, who will be able to give you a more detailed explanation of what could be involved.

The West Regional Young Umpires Action Group has already identified 50 plus youngsters throughout the West who are involved in umpiring and are giving them the support they need to be able to officiate to the best of their abilities. One of the Avon youngsters, Caroline Fenn, has already umpired at two West Junior Tournaments and has shown great promise. My thanks to John Burr who has agreed to mentor Caroline until she is old enough to go it alone. Another, Nicola Trout, umpired at last season's National Minis' finals and did a sterling job.

Congratulations must go to Simon Fairclough who has gained his level 2 umpire award, a great achievement at the age of 22. Justine Nicklin unfortunately has had a knee injury prior to Christmas, but hopes to progress to Level 2 in the New Year.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a very happy and a prosperous New Year.

Peter



C

W

H

U

A

How to help those colleagues who are just starting their umpiring career

As Summer Leagues have finished for another season it's time to hopefully relax until Winter League starts.

Summer Leagues are an important time for all umpires. They give us an opportunity to receive coaching and concentrate on particular aspects of the game that we feel we need to improve on.

But... as a newly qualified umpire can you remember the first time you umpired a game? The nerves, butterflies and maybe feeling sick!

In Avon we are fortunate in that we have a lot of candidate umpires who are coming through. As registered candidates can now umpire league matches (a fact that we hope your team will have told you in advance!) you may well come across less experienced and confident umpires than yourself. It's vital that these candidates gain experience and want to keep umpiring. We know it can be difficult to umpire with someone who doesn't appear confident but remember; together you are the third team on the pitch and need to show a united front. So we've come up with a few handy hints to bear in mind -

- Remember - the pre match talk - be clear on areas of control especially the "grey area"
- Put your colleague at their ease
- Encourage the candidate to time the first half so that they have to blow the whistle to start the game
- Allow the candidate to settle into the game i.e. don't start blowing decisions under their nose in the first few minutes
- If they look to you - remember to be supportive
- Smile - show them you are enjoying umpiring
- Re-enforce good decisions - thumbs up across the pitch
- Talk at half and full time about the game and decisions constructively
- Don't give or show opinions on their abilities - be positive!
- Seek out your colleague and shake their hand at the end of the game

And finally - the sooner they are qualified the less Friday night 10pm phone calls we'll all get!

Richard Powell Memorial Award

Although we are only halfway through the season, you can vote for this award at any time. The award is given annually to the person who you the members feel has given outstanding services to umpiring and is awarded at the AGM.

To nominate the person you feel is most deserving go to the website at www.acwhua.com and click on the button at the top right of the home page, alternatively send an email to any member of the committee with your nomination and a short recitation as to why you are nominating them.

INSURANCE - Who is covered and who is not.

There has been some confusion this season with regard to insurance and especially with regard to Level One candidates also known as probationary umpires.

1. A probationary umpire is an umpire who is registered on a level 1 umpiring course and has passed the written theory exam within the last 12 months (sometimes extended due to extenuating circumstances and agreed by the ACWHUA committee).
2. Probationary umpires may umpire league matches in division 2 and below of each regional league, provided:
 - a) There is a qualified umpire officiating on the other side.
 - b) The arrangement has been mutually agreed by both teams taking part in the game at least one week prior to the date of the fixture.

All matches in Division 1 & above require 2 qualified umpires.

In these cases probationary umpires will be covered by their club's Public Liability insurance.

With regard to "Friendly matches" no such requirement exists and probationary umpires may, if both teams agree, umpire on both sides and their own team need not be involved in the match.

In these cases probationary umpires will be covered by the ACWHUA Public Liability insurance, as agreed by the ACWHUA Committee.

Should you have any questions with regard to this information or any other aspect of umpiring please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peter Lovell

Chairman ACWHUA

Please note new telephone number: 01275 843416

PLEASE NOTE

Umpires under the age of 18 can **not** umpire any senior hockey matches unless there is an appropriate adult mentor present. This mentor must be able to stand behind them whilst they umpire and be able to assist should they get into difficulty. In general the mentor should be a qualified umpire.

Should you have young umpires at your club, please spare a few extra hours to allow them to be able to umpire as much as is possible.

Remember they are the future of our sport.



Dear Marge

Need some advice on a new situation I recently encountered. I was umpiring at Clevedon School a couple of weeks ago. Nailsea elected to play without a keeper. Situation one, a shot at goal in the D it strikes a defenders foot and is on target for the goal. if there was a keeper on the pitch and she was between the defender and the goal, penalty corner on the assumption the keeper could have stopped it. But with no keeper, whilst there was another defender between the offender and the goal does one afford the same level of assumption that this other defender could use her stick to stop the ball entering the goal? I gave a short corner but thinking about it afterwards it is quite different having a keeper in kit who can use her feet as to a defender who only has the benefit of a stick? Should it have been a flick? Then I thought about the consequences of awarding a flick with no goalkeeper what happens? Surely you can't have an outfield player stood on the line with no kit? Is it an uncontested flick? As this scenario is likely to arise again because of this stupid no keeper rule please can you advise me on the correct line to take over these issues.

Steve



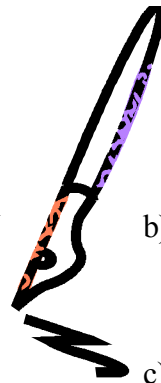
Dear Steve

We discussed this at our last committee meeting - it's an interesting one.

We agree with your decision to give the penalty corner, as the other defender could have stopped the ball, therefore the foot did not stop an almost certain goal.

If a penalty stroke is awarded in a game where there is no fully kitted keeper on the pitch, it is **not** uncontested, as there is no rule that says you can't substitute at a stroke, so the captain has 3 options:

- a) Substitute a field player for a fully kitted keeper (although if they had



- one you'd expect them to be playing!)
- b) Substitute a field player for a player wearing only protective headgear and a different colour shirt, who then has goalkeeping privileges
- c) If the player defending the stroke is otherwise taking part in the game as a field player, they may wear only a face mask as protective equipment, and only use their stick to make a save.

Hope this helps! It's covered under rule 13.5 (page 32 of the rule book).

Marge



Dear Marge

Whilst out and about the other week someone was talking about an MMO. Could you explain what an MMO is and when it might be applied please.

Just trying to keep up with the jargon.

Jargonbuster

Dear Jargonbuster

MMO stands for Matchday Misconduct Offence.

This covers incidents which happen on a match day but outside of the 70 minutes or extra time of a game where the umpire would have shown a red card. For these offences a similar process to the red card report form will be followed.

Marge



GOALKEEPERS – WHAT IS ALLOWED AND WHAT ISN'T

The rules regarding goalkeepers have changed considerably over the last few months, so here is a brief summary of what is, and what isn't allowed:

Goalkeepers

- Goalkeeper wearing protective headgear are only permitted to take part in the game within their 23m area
- Designated goalkeepers who only wear protective headgear may take part in the game outside their own 23m, provided they have safely removed their headgear and continue to wear a shirt or garment of a different colour to both teams
- At penalty corners, an injured or suspended goalkeeper may only be replaced by a similarly attired goalkeeper i.e. a goalkeeper wearing only protective headgear may not be replaced by a fully kitted goalkeeper

Goalkeeping

- Allow a goalkeeper to move the ball away with their hand / hand protector / arm / body, as part of making a save
- Permit this action in a situation where attackers have an opportunity to score or attempt to score a goal, so it can be used to deny attackers the possibility of possession or another shot at goal.
- Be aware that a goalkeeper who intentionally propels the ball over a long distance with their hand should be penalised with a penalty corner

No Goalkeeper

- If a team uses only field players, no player has goalkeeper privileges.
- If the player defending a penalty corner is taking part as a field player, they may only wear a face mask as protective equipment and may only use their stick to make a save.

2007/8 Committee

Chairman	Peter Lovell	01275 843416	peterlovell@sky.com
Secretary	Margaret Hollow	01934 843500	hollowtreave@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Pearce	01179 622139	pearcebob@googlemail.com
Committee	Carolyn Britton	01454 851182	carolyn25@bluevonder.co.uk
	Vanda Fenn	01179 755695	vanda.fenn@uwe.ac.uk
	Justine Nicklin	01454 851182	justine18@bluevonder.co.uk
	Liz Powell	01179 498571	thepowells298@ukonline.co.uk
	Jan Sharp	01454 321264	janicemsharp@aol.com

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee should you have any questions but please remember to observe common courtesies i.e. do not ring after 10pm