

# Newsletter

Volume 57 . September 2014

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## Chair's Letter

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Well here we are again, starting to get ready for another season! I hope you've all found some time to relax between the summer league games that have been going on in the area.

We ran another successful summer league at Coombe Dingle this year. I'd like to thank Vanda Fenn and Pete Lovell for co-ordinating candidate coaching and assessments, as well as progression games and reassessments. Thanks also to the umpire coaches who helped out again this year. During summer league, 16 candidates gained their Level 1 award.

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Avon continues to be highly successful at developing our young umpires – 61 of our current candidates are under 21, with 46 of our active qualified umpires falling in this age group. We have always proudly boasted about our youngsters and Ben Garrod is one of our rising stars, and was voted last season's EHB Young Performance Umpire of the Year – huge congratulations to him! Over the years we have reported on the development of one of our outstanding young umpires, Caz Fenn (now Standfield) who moved out of the area last year. To complete the story, I am very happy to tell you that Caz has recently been awarded her FIH International Umpire badge. We wish Caz well as she embarks on her international career!

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Whilst discussing our young umpires, I would like to thank the organisers of Avon Junior League which provides great opportunities for our U18 umpires to develop alongside players of a similar age. So, on behalf of ACWHUA, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Paul Westgate and Jan Wilson.

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Whilst we want to nurture our youngsters and look to the future, we do not want to forget our more mature umpires – after all,

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we recycled teenagers do turn out week in, week out to support and promote the game!

As well as running umpiring qualification courses, your committee continues to extend an open offer to run rules evenings for club players. So why not suggest it to your club, or get together with another team and we'll do the presentation if you provide the venue and attendees!

Over the last few months, your committee has worked with England Hockey to bring in the new umpire structure (more on that at the meeting after the AGM). We have also helped the leagues (Women's and Men's) with the wording for the new regulations regarding umpires. The first Avon course under the new format and qualification is being held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

We said last year that we were opening a facebook page. This is now available as an open page, so why not visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ACWHUA/269670933133459?fref=ts>

As always, we want to find ways to support all of our members so please get in touch to advise us how we might best do that.

We also want this Newsletter to be yours and to reflect the needs of our members. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for articles, or whether you fancy trying your hand as a journo!

I hope to see you all at the AGM on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, have a great season and keeeeeep whistling!!

Justine

## **Commonwealth Games 2014**

Congratulations to England men and women on their medals at the Commonwealth Games this summer. We were fortunate to be at some of the early games and thoroughly enjoyed the welcome at Glasgow. The atmosphere was fantastic, as were all the supporters from around the Commonwealth in their team colours and the weather was glorious.

It was interesting that not all spectators had watched/played hockey since their school days (if at all) and were grateful that we were able to offer some explanation into how the game is played, the rules and the decisions made by the umpires – including the video referrals. Oh how that would be helpful on a Saturday at Wessex 2 level!

Many of you will have seen the different rules that are in place at this higher level – two minute green card, playing the ball above shoulder height, 40 seconds to set up at penalty corners, sending a player to the half way line when breaking early from a penalty corner and the '8 seconds to score' instead of penalty flicks. What we must remember is that the umpires at this level of hockey have a team of technical officials who can time any penalty given, a countdown clock for penalty corners and of course the 'head sets' for communication.

At lower levels these rules do not apply, so remember just because you saw it at the Commonwealth Games, please don't apply them during the coming season!

## **Rule changes**

The only change this season is that the own goal experiment has been removed, so it's back to an attacker having to play the ball in the circle, without it leaving again, before a goal can be scored.

Indoor – for those of you who also umpire indoor hockey, please refer to the EHB website for any changes.

## **Pitches you have known and loved**

Do you have a memorable pitch? We'd love to hear about them – from the old grass days through to the new astro (sand and water based) – email any committee member!

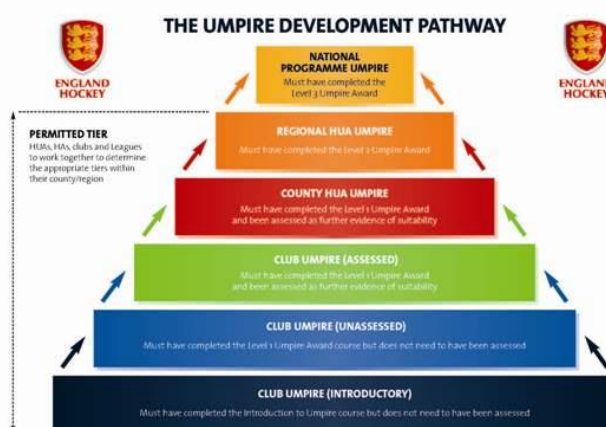


## The New Umpire Development Pathway

The new England Hockey umpire development pathway has now been introduced nationally and does mean that there are some changes to the current situation. There are no longer “Level 1”, “Level 2” and “Level 3” umpires and these levels have been replaced with the titles in the diagram below:

All of you will become a minimum of a Level 1 umpire (Assessed) and there will be no changes to the matches you will be permitted to officiate.

The new level of County HUA umpire has been introduced for those of you who from time to time take neutral appointments and have therefore been assessed to a higher level, your committee will be deciding who should be moved up to this level in due course.



Level 2 umpires will become Regional HUA umpires and the move to this level remains the same as it does now when becoming a Level 2.

Level 3 umpires will become National Programme Umpires and the criterion for this remains the same although changes are to soon take place.

The main changes are in the lower levels:-

- Anyone who attends a Level 1 umpiring course will become a “Club Umpire (Unassessed)” from the day of the course and will be able to umpire league matches in the same way as candidates did last year but there is no longer any time limit for them to become assessed but as per assessed umpires they must umpire a minimum of 3 matches per year to remain on the active list.
- Whilst there is no longer a time limit they will only be allowed to umpire league matches at division 2 and below and only if there is an assessed umpire on the other side and also provided the club give the opposition at least 7 days notice. Therefore we will be encouraging all of these umpires to be assessed to lessen the burden on their club.
- Umpires who attend an introduction to umpiring course will become a “club umpire (introduction)” but will not be permitted to umpire any senior league matches. Therefore we would suggest that this course would be suitable for youngsters as was the previous “Foundation Umpiring Course”.

The new “Level 1” Umpiring Course now has a greater emphasis on the practical side of umpiring and at least 2 hours of the course is spent on the pitch. The cost of the course has been standardised nationally and it is now £50 per candidate and can only be booked online at the England Hockey website and candidates will do a theory test online prior to attending the course.

**NB those that have attended any previous course will still have to be assessed within two years of attendance or they will have to start the whole process again. So, if you have any current candidates at your club, please encourage them to apply for assessment ASAP.**

# Dear Marge

Dear Marge



Penalty corners continue to be a regular feature of my mailbox – here are another couple for you.

Dear Marge,

I was umpiring a game recently in which a player tried to take a penalty corner on the back line, but out by the edge of the circle rather than the allotted marker. I advised the player to move the ball to the correct place, which she did after a short, slightly heated, discussion, in which she told me that I was wrong – was I?

Confused

*Dear Confused,*

*I'm afraid that you were wrong with your insistence that the player use the 10m marker to inject the PC. The rules state that the "ball is placed on the back line inside the circle at least 10 metres from the goal-post on whichever side of the goal the attacking team prefers." This means that they can take it anywhere between the 10m marker and the edge of the circle.*

*I hope that this clarification will help, but if you are in a similar situation where a player suggests that you might be wrong, it's a perfect opportunity to work with your colleague and get their opinion.*

Dear Marge,

In a recent game, at a PC, the ball was injected and reached the attacker at the same time as the defender. The ball was blocked just as the attacker played it and went sideways to another attacker, who hit the ball into the roof of the net. I disallowed the goal as it was too high, but the attacking team argued that it was the second shot at goal. After consulting my colleague I told the team that the decision was no goal. They weren't happy, but played on. However, they did discuss it with me after the game and maintained that they should have been awarded the goal. What do you think?

Doubting Thomas

*Dear Doubting Thomas*

*I think that you were right to disallow the goal, and your colleague clearly was too. The rule states that if the first shot at goal is a hit (as opposed to a push, flick or scoop) the ball must be on a path to cross the goal line no higher than 460mm (the height of the backboard) before any deflection, for a goal to be scored. The requirements of this Rule apply even if the ball touches the stick or body of a defender before the first shot at goal. From what you have described, the first touch of the ball cannot be considered a shot, therefore the requirement had not passed.*

Well

done!



## 2013/14 Committee

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**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**

### **AGM**

This year's AGM is to be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> Room 4 at BAWA 7.30pm.

The AGM will be followed by a presentation of the new Umpiring structure.

ACWHUA umpiring polo shirts in yellow, light blue and cerise are available to purchase from the committee at a cost of £12.50 each in sizes S (36 - 38) M (40 - 42) and L (44 - 46). Please contact [carolyn25@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:carolyn25@blueyonder.co.uk)

The best place to get Fox whistles is [www.fox40whistles.co.uk](http://www.fox40whistles.co.uk) although sometimes you can find them cheaper on Amazon.

