

HUA Conference 2017

Summary & Follow Up



1. Introduction

The conference took place at Lee Valley Velopark on Saturday 17th June. It was attended by fifty-two (52) people, representing thirty-one (30) Hockey Umpiring Associations (HUAs). This was the fifth conference of its kind and was attended by a similar number of delegates than the previous years' conference. The conference programme is shown in **Appendix 1**.

2. Welcoming Comments

Royston Hoggarth, England Hockey Chairman, opened the conference informing the delegates of the strides the sport has taken over the past four year funding cycle, making reference to the Olympic Gold in Rio for GB Women and the ambitions the board has for hockey in the next four year cycle.

3. Reflections on 2016 and Future Plans

Sally Munday, England Hockey CEO, led a presentation on the work the National Governing Body has completed over the last 4 years, some key achievements and where we had made biggest gains on the playing side at all levels of the game.

Sally then led a presentation on Future Planning and the Ambitions England Hockey have for the next 10 years, including an overview of the FIH Pro League (starting in 2019) and the England Hockey Strategy over this period. Details of these can be found in **Appendix 2**.

4. Umpiring and Officiating Strategy 2013-2017 Review

David Elworthy, England Hockey Officiating Officer, updated the delegates on the achievements within Umpiring and Officiating since the last HUA Conference. This included updates on the structure within England Hockey's Workforce Team, guidance on governance issued and updated numbers of umpires completing all entry level points of training and engagement with the HockeyHub. The delegates were also presented with the 2013-2017 Umpiring and Officiating Strategy and asked to discuss this strategy within breakout groups.

In response to the questions asked in the breakout session:

- a) Which parts of the strategy have worked well for you as an HUA?
 - Introduction of Centralised Educational courses for umpiring (L1, Introduction to Umpiring, Club Umpire Developer)
 - Established on-going support for umpires on the HockeyHub
 - Recruitment of EH Tutor Workforce
- b) What areas have been challenging and why?
 - Recruitment remains an issue at club level as well as for HUAs
 - On-going support for Club Umpire Developers not evident
 - Converting L1 Unassessed to L1 Assessed umpires still a challenge

5. Umpiring & Officiating Strategy 2017-2021

David Elworthy presented the delegates some information on the current Hockey Landscape, including the number of affiliated clubs, members and the number of matches being played across the country per week plus other information to help them understand the national picture. Delegates were then asked for their input into the construction of the Umpiring & Officiating Strategy 2017-2021 via breakout groups

In response to the questions asked in the breakout session:

- a) What would be on your “wish list” in developing umpiring over the next 4 years?
 - Greater relationships between the HUAs and clubs to promote and develop umpiring at all levels
 - Standardising of League rules so we know where we can focus attentions for assessments and coaching
 - Develop CPD and training appropriate for County HUAs to use for ongoing umpire development
- b) If you want to engage with more individuals about umpiring, what could England Hockey do to support you with this?
 - Look at centralising information systems so HUAs have better picture on who is umpiring where and then allow us to contact them directly
 - Develop “Value” for umpiring through RESPECT campaign
 - Help us build links with local clubs, schools and universities to promote and develop umpiring in these establishments

6. The Next Steps

David Elworthy and Stephen Tabb, England Hockey Workforce Training and Development Manager, then led a brief review session of the previous breakout session, highlighting the main points (as listed above). Stephen Tabb also informed delegates that their views will be taken into account as part of the construction of the 2017-2021 Umpiring & Officiating strategy, which is aimed to be completed by the end of October 2017. This will then be communicated to HUAs.

The conference closed at 3pm, with delegates being invited to Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre to enjoy some of the matches at the World League Semi Finals.

APPENDIX 1 – CONFERENCE AGENDA

Saturday 17th June 2017		
Time	Topic	Facilitator/Presenter
1100	Welcome, Introduction and Housekeeping	David Elworthy Royston Hoggarth
1120	Reflections on 2016 & Future plans	Sally Munday
1145	England Hockey's Umpiring & Officiating Strategy 2013-2017	David Elworthy / Stephen Tabb
1155	Workshop – Officiating Strategy 2013-2017 Review	Group Work
1245	Working Lunch	
1330	England Hockey's Umpiring & Officiating Strategy 2017-2021	David Elworthy / Stephen Tabb
1345	Workshop – Umpiring & Officiating Strategy 2017-2021	Group
1500	The Next Steps	David Elworthy / Stephen Tabb
1515	Depart for Matches at WLSF	