



HEREFORDSHIRE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE HOCKEY UMPIRING ASSOCIATION

www.hgwhua.co.uk

Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 21st March 2016 at Cheltenham Civil Service Club

1. Apologies:

Tim Block, Mike Buckland, Steve Court, Shaun Cullimore, George Elliot, Andrew Hick, Iain Johnston, Dave Lennie, Andy Marson, Nick Paget, Geoff Perrott, Alan Taylor, Mike Whittaker, Nigel Williams,

Present:

Al Chick, Alison Cook, Terry Cook, John Cull, Nick Grimshaw, John Hammond, Simon Jackson, David Lillywhite, Mike Sheppard, Darrell Scarth, Justin Smith, Mike Smith, Chris Tomlinson, Peter Wheatley, Mark Windsor,

2. Approval of 2015 EGM minutes.

Proposed by Justin Smith, seconded by Terry Cook and agreed by all present.

3. Actions arising

None.

4. Reports:

• Chairman

David Lillywhite had tabled a report and wanted to record special thanks to Steve Court for his work as appointments secretary.

• Secretary

Alison Cook advised normal secretarial duties and dealing with membership renewals. .

• Treasurer

Mark Windsor had tabled an interim report and advised a full report would be given at the EGM. Membership had increased and the website continues to give good value.

It was proposed there be no change to membership fees; £12.00 full member and £10.00 associate member. This was proposed by Mark Windsor and seconded by Chris Tomlinson.

Chris Tomlinson raised the issue of the quality of the HGWHUA shirts, Mark Windsor explained that they were not poor quality and gave the background to support this.

• Appointments Secretary

Steve Court had tabled a report. Chris Tomlinson proposed a vote of thanks to Steve for his efforts during the season.

• Chief Coach

Peter Wheatley had tabled a report. He added his verbal thanks Darrell Scarth and reminded the meeting that ad hoc watchings could always be done if resources permitted. Only two members had not been watched during the season and this would be rectified early next season.

Justin Smith advised he had found the development event at Wootton under Edge very informative and the group environment was helpful. He also had found personal mentoring useful during the season.

5. Election of Officers

All current officers were willing to stand for re-election and there had been no new nominees. It was proposed by Terry Cook, seconded by Mike Smith, that they be re-elected en-bloc. This was agreed unanimously.

6. Election of Lay Members

Steve Burton had stood down and no nominations received to fill the vacancy. This would be discussed at the next committee meeting. Shaun Cullimore and Mike Smith returned unopposed.

7. Presentation of Chris Tomlinson award

This was presented to Dave Lennie and a resume of the reasons for this was given by David Lillywhite. Summarised, Dave gave considerable time to watching, coaching and mentoring members to the extent that when realising the shortage after Christmas withdrew from West appointments to support the Association.

8. Any Other Business as permitted by the Chairman

It was agreed to look at the possibility of arranging an umpires development course.

Chris Tomlinson proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for they work they do during the season.

Meeting closed at 20:23.

REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE 2015/16 A.G.M.

So another season draws to a close, during which the Committee have again worked hard to keep the Association moving forward and all Committee meetings have been well attended.

As always Steve Court deserves special mention for his continued efforts to keep the appointments running as smoothly as possible. Mark Windsor has kept his usual close watch on our finances and Alison Cook continues to do an excellent job as Secretary.

The season started in early September with a presentation on the rule changes by our guest speaker Nick White. Nick travelled up from Yeovil for the evening and it was a little disappointing that more of the membership that live considerably closer did not make the effort to attend what was a very informative evening.

Recruitment remains a serious issue with the number of umpires taking neutral appointments at all levels continuing to dwindle. This is not just an issue in our area but is a national problem that shows no signs of improving. In the past there would be a number of NPUA umpires who did not have a match each weekend that would then umpire for their Region, and in turn a number of Regional umpires would be available to their County Association. Now the NPUA are in a position that everyone available is needed to umpire, which in turn has a knock on effect for both the Region and County Association.

In an effort to engender interest from the Associate members a group coaching event was arranged at Wotton-under-Edge. All Associate members were invited to attend, only 6 expressed interest and that reduced in the days running up to the event to just 3. A further attempt has been made recently with all Associates being asked to inform us of what they would like us to do for them, the results of that "survey" will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Thank you all for your efforts during the season.

David Lillywhite
21 March 2016

APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY REPORT SEASON 2015/2016

1. This season I have made 316 (last year 420) individual appointments, not counting re-arrangements and cry offs. I have not been able to cover any of the school matches. However, in general, I get the impression that both you and the clubs have been content with the way appointments have been handled. As you will see from the numbers several clubs had 3 or more games UTA.

2. Welcome to the new guys on the block Mike Buckland and Simon Jackson and welcome back to Andy Allen. Unfortunately, we lost James Self at Christmas and we had a spate of injuries during the second half of the season. Currently we have 22 panel umpires of which 8 are West.

3. Luckily we were pretty much unaffected this year by the weather which allowed me to have the odd lie in!! I could not have done this job without the active help of all the HGWHUA members taking appointments, in particular those who have stepped in to cover fixtures at short notice, so please all take a pat on the back.

4. We have been extremely well served this season by those doing watching/coachings. My thanks go to Dave Lennie and particular Darrell for the number that they have done. It makes my life so much easier to have up to date information on how umpires are performing. I am sure that Peter will say more.

5. **Next Season.** We obviously wait the placing of teams to divisions. However, I suspect that we will be umpiring mostly the same number of home teams as previously but with a different geographical dispersion and Conference North could be interesting. The SP for next season will be:

- I hope to issue availability forms in early August and as last year will aim to appoint to pre-season friendlies as long as I know about them!!
- We need more umpires on the panel. This is down to the clubs with HGWHUA in support.

6. Please keep me informed of any address, telephone or email change during the summer. Remember I do not have a crystal ball! For clubs, if I don't know that you are playing then I cannot appoint, see above.

8. Once again many thanks for your support, without it this job would be impossible. On the other hand without you there would be no job and/or ulcer!!! But also no fun or 1664!

Steve Court
Hon Appts Sec
HGWHUA

19 March 2016

COACHING SECRETARY REPORT SEASON 2015/2016

This has been another busy season. So far, I have received 32 watching reports, covering 17 of our active members. The worrying thing is that only 14 of these members are still active – the others have dropped out for mainly health related issues! As always, we have tried to cover as many of the active members as possible, but, because of the ways in which umpires have to be paired on appointments, some members have been watched several times. There are 2 members who haven't been watched this season – my apologies to them, and I hope that we will get round to see them early next season.

The work has been done mainly by Dave Lennie and Darrel Scarth, with myself, Dave Lillywhite and mark Windsor chipping in with a few when they have not been busy with the West or other hockey commitments. My thanks go to all who have put in time and energy to support our members.

Another event that I need to report was the group coaching day at Wootton-u-Edge, at their cup match against Tulse Hill. The match itself was a good one, with a bit of bite to it, and we were able to advise 8 umpires, including 5 active members. Darrel and I were the 2 advisors for the day. It was very well organised by Dave Lillywhite and the home club, and it was just a shame that more of our full and associate members could not come along. The active membership of the Association is dropping slowly and surely, and it is important that we try to maintain the strongest possible links with our clubs to encourage more people to join us and take appointments.

On the positive side, I have recently done 4 Level 1 assessments. While it is unlikely that 3 of these will go on to umpire for us, the other person that I assessed was quite interested in the challenge of umpiring mens' league matches, and, once her family situation allows it, will be worth looking at as a potential full member.

Thanks, as always, to Steve Court for his superb work making the appointments and pairing up watchers with umpires. I could not operate without his support.

Peter Wheatley
21 March 2016