

GHA Annual General Meeting Umpiring Secretary Report – 23rd May 2018

Umpiring Courses

One Level One Umpire Course was run in the County during the season in November 2018 hosted by Herefordshire Gloucestershire Wiltshire Hockey Umpiring Association (HGWHUA), at Balcarras School in Cheltenham. Other courses may have been run in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. This course was tutored by Martin Wilkes and Mike Sheppard and was fully loaded with 24 people attending. The breakdown of Gloucestershire Club participants was as follows

East Glos HC/University of Gloucestershire	1
Cirencester HC/Deer Park School	1
University of Gloucestershire	3
Hatherop Castle School	1
Cheltenham HC	3
East Glos HC	1
Cheltenham Ladies College	2
Dean Close School/Cheltenham HC	1
Cheltenham Junior HC	1
Malvern and Colwall Hockey Club/CJHC	1
Cirencester HC	2
Kings School, Gloucester/Cheltenham HC	1
The Cotswold Academy	1

An Umpire Developer Course was run in January 2019 at the Cotswold Area Civil Service Sports club in Cheltenham. This was hosted and paid for by Gloucestershire Hockey Association in response to the feedback provided at the Gloucestershire Club Forums.

This training course is for people who want to help umpires improve – through observing their on-field performance and then providing effective feedback. It is the first course on the umpire developer pathway and people who attend it are likely to be helping their club's umpires or their County Hockey Umpiring Association's (HUAs) Level 1 umpires.

The course participants were

Steven	Dexter	Wotton-under-Edge
Mark	Readstone	Gloucester City
Steve	Foster	Cirencester
Ian	Harvey	Cirencester
Adrian	Chambers	Yate
Mike	Edwards	Yate
Rachel	Sullivan	Cheltenham CS

David	Phillips	Cheltenham CS
Bob	Brewer	Stroud
Paul	Munn	Stroud
Gideon	York	Wotton-under-Edge
Jerry	Tranter	Cheltenham HC
James (Deric)	Burns	Old Bristolians HC
Simon	Thompson	Gloucester City

All umpire courses are continuously advertised on the England Hockey website. Clubs, schools and universities wishing to host either the Introduction to Umpiring course, Level 1 Umpire course or the Umpire Developer course can do so by completing the course request form for the relevant course below and returning it to umpiring@englandhockey.co.uk a minimum of 6 weeks prior to your preferred course date.

Assessments

There have been a number of successful assessments this season, ten that I am aware of though there may be some that have been assessed and now administered in adjacent counties. I am also aware that some local umpires have been assessed but the assessor or individual umpire has not sent me details. It is noticeable that those umpires who present themselves for assessment without officiating at least three full length matches in quite a short time frame are struggling to meet the requirements for a successful assessment.

Level One (unassessed) Umpires

According to the League regulations, Level One (unassessed) Umpires can officiate in the lowest divisions in the Men's (Tier 6 and below; The Marches 1 & 2; West Central 1, 2 & 3, East Central 1 & 2. Rule 8 states that *Umpires must be qualified to at least Level 1 assessed except at Tier 5 where one umpire can be Level 1 (unassessed) if the match is being used for their assessment game and at Tier 6 and below one umpire can be Level 1 (unassessed)*. In the West Club's Women's Hockey League, Level One (unassessed) umpire can officiate at Regional Divisions 2 & 3, such as Severn 2 and Severn 3, as long as due notice is given and the other umpire is a qualified Level One umpire or above.

Meetings

I have attended the WHA Umpiring Committee meetings held in Taunton in June 2018 and April 2019 as the County Umpiring Representative. The minutes for these meetings, and the one I missed in February 2019, are published on the West Hockey Umpiring website which can be found at <http://www.westumpires.co.uk/index.php>

There have been no Regional Young Umpire Action Group meetings this season. However, Caz Standfield, whose contact details are available on the West Hockey Umpiring website, has now taken on the role of RYUAG Coordinator and any young umpires wishing to develop their umpiring should contact her.

I have attended four West Clubs' Women's Hockey League Committee Meetings held at Taunton School in June & October 2019, February & April 2019 in the capacity of the WHA Umpiring Committee representative and also as the

Gloucestershire County Representative. These are mainly involved with the routine running of the League. However, this year, the Committee have been working on the reorganisation of the League consequent on the enlargement of the English National League, some Dorset clubs moving to the South Region Leagues and the opening of the Premier 1 Division to two Welsh Clubs. I have also attended HGWHUA Committee meetings as the County representative.

I attended the EH Governance and then the next day the EH Hockey Umpiring Association conferences at Lee Valley, London during the World Cup in July 2018. Information about the progress of the EH Governance Review is available on the EH website under 'Governing Body' then 'About England Hockey' then 'Governance Review 2018' which shows a timeline and has links to various reports and updates. The main themes seem to be more transparency, more clarity, less longevity and less duplication of effort.

The EH Hockey Umpiring Association Conference was an update on the progress and management of umpiring in England and the intentions for the future.

Official Management System

For a number of years, EH have identified that the Player Pathway programme has not allowed for an equivalent programme in the development of officials. The database of umpire qualification and activity is incomplete, probably correct individually only when an individual umpire registers for a course, (and not even then when parents put in their own details rather than their children's; when Club officials enter details on behalf of their club members). The Level One award, now known as Club or County Umpire, is a National Award, and the National Governing body does not know who is dead or alive, who is active or inactive, are the personal details up to date or not.

As a consequence, during the past few months, a system provider has been identified and contracted to provide an umpire appointment database and management system. This is a firm called Whosetheumpire.com who provide a similar service to other sports, including cricket, in a number of countries. The intention is to introduce the new system of managing umpires and appointments initially at national and Regional Level, with the intention that the system will be rolled out at County and Club level in due course. The long-term intention is that every time an umpire umpires a match, this would be recorded by the club or by the individual, where as for appointed umpires, this would be done by the appointing bodies.

HGWHUA

HGWHUA has continued to manage, coach, assess and progress neutral umpires who take appointments within the three counties. David Lillywhite has stood down as Chair and been replaced by Terry Cook, a new appointments secretary has yet to be identified at the time of this report. Please see the HGWHUA website for further details and also guidance how Club and County umpires can progress their umpiring careers onward.

Umpire Shortages

There is a shortage of umpires at all levels of the game. Of immediate concern is the lack of umpires prepared to take neutral appointments at County and Regional level, particularly in the Women's game. This will affect Gloucester and

Lydney teams, the shortage in the men's game will affect all those teams playing the Men's Divisions who have umpires appointed to their matches.

Thanks to all people who have given me assistance this season either directly or by helping out after the various requests for umpires that I have passed on from clubs and schools.

Mike Sheppard
Umpiring Secretary
14th May 2019