

**Meeting of the Yorkshire Hockey Umpiring Association Committee held at
7:30 pm on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at Wakefield Hockey Club**



MINUTES

Present: Dik Skippings (DS)
Paul McCormick (PM)
Alistair Copeland (AC)
Mike Talbot (MT)
Gill Meachen(GM)

David Elworthy, England Hockey (for Item 4)

1) Apologies:

Ellie Skippings, Richard Sykes, Gill Meachen, Julie Blogg, Ross Anderson, Barrie Pollard

2) Approval of previous minutes.

The treasurer advised that the Association's reserves were £17,500, not £7,500 as stated in the draft minutes. With this correction, the minutes of the 13th November 2018 were approved.

3) Matters Arising:

Item 4 –DS has so far been unable to track down the missing shirt

Item 13 – AOB. P McC advised that he might be willing to continue organising the appointments for Yorkshire Youth Hockey events;

4) England Hockey update

The chair welcomed David Elworthy, the EH Officiating Relationship Manager. David provided an update on four key areas:

Governance review – this is still progressing in line with the timetable and would be put to the EH AGM on 29 March. In developing the proposals in the resolution, the group had considered a wide range of scenarios for the organisation of England Hockey. These will be summarised for the AGM. At present there are no proposals to delete a level of governance;

A single body for umpiring and officiating: still not arrived at a definitive new structure so there are no immediate proposals to change the current arrangements. This will wait for the new national game structure to be in place and it is unlikely that there will be any major change for at least three years.

Appointing to the new National League structure for the 2019/20 season – as there are now more teams and therefore matches at this level, there will be a need for more umpires than under the current league structure. Inevitably this will draw in some umpires who currently officiate in games managed by the Regional and County associations. The impact will vary from region to region depending on the capabilities of the umpires in this more local pool but it is likely that there will be an impact on the number of umpires available for appointment to the regional and county leagues. This in turn may put more pressure on clubs to find suitable umpires for their matches.

Officiating Management System – the preferred provider will be announced later in January. The new system will be tested with East data and quickly rolled out to the other regions. However, while this testing is underway, it will run parallel with the existing systems. EH hope that it will be cost neutral should Regions/Counties switch to the new OMS. A training session is planned for the North and DE will ensure that an invite to this is extended to YHUA.

5) Chair's Report:

DS drew attention to the new EH Guidance on Concussion. This has been posted on the website.

The AGM is scheduled for Thursday 2 May and we should be doing some pre planning for it. Julie Blogg has already advised that she will be standing down as Membership secretary and Paul McCormick has previously advised that he will not be standing for re-election as Men's member representative. We should also consider nominating new life members. It was agreed that all committee members should come to the next meeting with suggestions for new Life Members. AC will post an item on the website to alert members to the two vacancies and encourage nominations.

6) Treasurers Report:

RA gave his apologies and advised that there were no financial matters to bring to this meeting;

7) Secretary's Report:

AC advised that EH guidance on Concussion and on Urinating on the pitch had been received and posted on the website.

Information had also been received on **FIH Rule changes for 2019**. This had also been posted on the website with clarification from EH that the changes would not be implemented in England until later in 2019 once they had a chance to consider. It was not expected that any changes to the rules in England would take effect until the start of the 2019/20 domestic season.

We continue to receive complaints about the performance of club umpires. This clearly sits with YHA League committees but it does highlight the need for YHUA to continue to work with YHA and clubs to recruit more umpires and to support them in raising the standard of club umpiring.

8) Selection

Numbers of active neutral umpires continue to grow which is a very encouraging sign. Barrie is working really hard to get these new neutral umpires coached at their first games and so give us ideas as to their likely progression and pathway through umpiring. We have inevitably had a few umpires fall by the way side but not too many. The retirement of Paul McCormick will be a big blow to us all, given his experience and commitment to umpiring.

Following an deeply unpleasant incident at Marton Furness HC we do not intend to appoint to that club again. Once the committee ratifies this decision I will inform N&DHUA of our stance. We would be happy to appoint to Richmond HC as before. The selection panel has not been used this season due to the way that we are having to appoint in small batches of appointments to mirror the North. RS suggested that we need to review the requirement for a panel for next season. The committee discussed and agreed that it was important to retain the Selection Committee but that it did not necessarily need to meet face to face.

9) Coaching Co-ordinator

We have had successful Club Coaching Days at Chapeltown, Brigg and Rotherham HCs since our last meeting. There is a Coaching Day on 16th Feb for Sheffield Bankers; and Wakefield have requested one too and this will be fixed for later in the season. There is a Coaches' Coaching Day on 26th January at Leeds, Weetwood, as guests of Leeds HC - Mike, Nick, Ross, Martin, Barrie, plus Simon Batty (Leeds HC Chairman) and Andrew Nix from N&D HUA

The Neutral Scheme for Women's N Div.2 SE is still progressing and we are supporting several umpires, some new to the scheme and others wanting to progress to L2 through the women's leagues.

The take up of the club Umpire Developer role is still disappointing and YHUA will continue to promote this but will need support from YHA;

10) Membership

JB had previously given her apologies.

11) Young umpiring (ES)

ES had previously given her apologies.

12) North HUA

NHUA had not met since the last YHUA meeting.

13) Report from YHA (AC)

No report

14) Any other business.

None advised or discussed.

15) Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 12 March 2019 7.30 pm at Wakefield SC