



MINUTES

Present: Dik Skippings (DS)
Paul McCormick (PM)
Alistair Copeland (AC)
Mike Talbot (MT)
Gill Meachen (GM)
Barrie Pollard (BP)
Ross Anderson (RA)

1) Apologies:

Ellie Skippings, Richard Sykes, Julie Blogg,

2) Approval of previous minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2019 were approved.

3) Matters Arising:

None

4) Chair's Report:

DS advised that the England Hockey Umpiring Conference would be held on 15 June. Details of the venue/timings/agenda had still to be confirmed. This date clashes with both the World League at Lee Valley and also the Masters Home Internationals.

In previous seasons YHUA had provided medals to the umpires officiating at the various Yorkshire Cup finals. It was agreed that we should continue to do this and AC agreed to source appropriate medals.

5) Treasurers Report:

RA provided copies of the audited accounts for 2017 – 2108. These shows a healthy financial position with a closing balance of £20,573.83, a slight reduction on the previous season. Part of this is due to reduced subscription income, a result of lower membership numbers.

In the current financial year, we had still not received payment from NHUA for the East Pennine appointments. RA agreed to chase this up with Peter Randall.

In view of the healthy financial position, the committee agreed to maintain subscriptions at the current level and to put this proposal to the forthcoming AGM.

6) Secretary's Report:

AC advised that he had not received a reply to our letter about Marton Furness from North. MT advised that he had recently had a verbal update from Chris Reece advising that North had decided that they were unable to pursue the matter with the club as the Association was also the body to whom the club would make any appeal. The committee expressed their disappointment at the lack of action and support for YHUA umpires that this suggested. MT agreed to draft emails to England Hockey, the two North Leagues and North HA setting out our frustration at the lack of action. He would circulate these for approval before sending them off.

England Hockey Officiating Management System (OMS) – this is now live for the East Region and will be rolled out to other regions over the next few weeks. It was expected that North would be operating this in parallel with the current system to test out its suitability.

7) Selection

RS was unable to attend but provided a short written report for members in advance of the meeting.

We have been exceedingly lucky with the weather this season with just one Saturday lost to the weather which has been covered by a slip date. Our numbers available has remained steady with some new joiners and a couple of leavers. Obviously it is uncertain how next season will pan out but we are in pretty good shape. Due to the pattern of appointing in the North and the numbers of appointees available the model we have used this season has been a collaborative one between myself and the Chief Coach ensuring that the right people are allocated to the appropriate games. The selection panel has been and is effectively defunct. I would propose that the same model is used next year unless others on the committee have different suggestions?

The committee discussed this and agreed that there was little value in continuing with the Selection Committee as RS and BP working together could manage the selection process and meet the short timescales forced on us by the North process.

8) Coaching Co-ordinator

Another new umpire has joined our ranks – Stephen Massey. Watched by Nick Fitton on Saturday. Chris Howkins no longer available.

Club Days – last one this coming Sunday 17 March, at Huddersfield (RA & BP). 4 matches to assess L1 Candidates and coach Club umpires.

By the end of this month, all YHUA umpires will have received at least one assessment. Only two umpires have caused slight concern.

The coaching day for coaches was held at Leeds, Weetwood on 26th January. Only Yvonne McCartney was missing from our six regular coaches (RA, MT, NF, MK, BP). Kerry Wragg, a County Developer in training also attended, as did Andrew Nix, who was invited from the North-East. Everyone agreed that it was very successful, useful and enjoyable. The only disappointment on the day was that the 6 coats for our coaches had not arrived. They have since arrived - 2 were the correct size, 4 were not. Silver FX have agreed to rectify this. YHUA have paid for the postage to return 4 coats.

Sonia Allan has a watching by the North at York this Saturday, to see whether she can be reactivated as a NHUA member. (Nick Fitton to attend as support.)

James Cowden will be appointed by the North on a North Men's Division 1 game, for his assessment as a Level 2 umpire on 30th March. (BP to attend as support.)

I would like to thank all my regular coaches for all the efforts they have made this season. Compared to other counties, Yorkshire are very lucky to have such a dedicated and willing band of professionals. Club Days have shown how dedicated they really are – being on site from 10am until about 6pm on occasion. All the Clubs have appreciated all the help and advice given to their members on Club Days. This has certainly enhanced the reputation of our Association.

On a more sombre note, I would like to draw to the Committee's attention, the effect the non-action by disciplinary panels, regarding Marton Furness, has had. We will lose umpires if they are not supported by the higher echelon. YHUA has reacted in an exemplary way in supporting our colleagues.

9) Membership

JB had previously given her apologies. According to subscriptions paid, the number of members is down slightly on the previous season.

10) Young umpiring (ES)

ES had previously given her apologies and advised that she will not be standing for re-election to the committee.

11) North HUA

NHUA no report;

12) Report from YHA

No report

13) AGM

It was agreed that we should update the constitution to take account of changes in the work of the committee. Therefore it is proposed that we delete the following positions:

- Appointments Chair – Women
- Appointments chair Men
- Level One Administrator
- Membership secretary:

Two new posts would be proposed

Selection Chair, replacing the previous separate position for Men and Women.

Youth umpiring development – this would formalise the current position currently filled by Ellie Skippings as a co-opted member;

AC agreed to revise the constitution and circulate a draft as soon as possible so that it can be made available to members in advance of the AGM.

Committee proposals for election at the AGM:

Chair – DS

President – MT

Vice president – suggestions please!

Treasurer – RA

Secretary – AC

Selection – RS

Coaching – BP

The chair and committee expressed their thanks to Paul McCormick and Gill Meachen who were standing down after this season.

Life members - it was agreed that we should elect some new life members to acknowledge the contribution of a number of members. It was agreed that we would propose the following at the AGM:

Martin Kingston
Paul McCormick
Richard Skippings
Peter Randall
Richard Sykes
John Waddington
Gill Meachen

Awards – John Herbert Award for Club hospitality – AC to get this info from the website: Martin Black Award for services to Yorkshire umpiring – please advise Dick Skippings and the secretary of your ideas by Monday 8 April. AC to reclaim the awards from last season's recipients.

14) Any other business.

None advised or discussed.

15) Date of next Meeting

AGM, Thursday 2nd May 2019 7.30 pm at Wakefield SC followed by a short business meeting of the new committee.