

**Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Hockey Umpiring Association
Committee held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 2nd May 2019 at Wakefield
Hockey Club**



MINUTES

Present:

Dik Skippings (DS President)
Mike Talbot (MT) Vic President
Ross Anderson (RA Treasurer)
Paul McCormick (PM) Elected member
Christine Renshaw (CR) Elected member
Barrie Pollard (BP Coaching coordinator)

Stephen Ball, Roger Bickley, Lee Cooper, James Cowden, Jeremy Hall, Tim Hawkins, Chris Randall, Kerry Wragg

1. Apologies:

Denys Abba, Malcolm Barnes, Lee Barron, Steve Brook, Simon Burgess, Julia Carroll, Steve Catton, Linda Clarkson, Jim Cockburn, Alistair Copeland (Secretary), Bob Dickenson, David Elworthy (EH), Mason Fenlon, Peter Fielding, Hannah Fisk, Sue Howard, Hamish Jamson, Martin Kingston, Bob Maltby, David Marsh, John McCartney, Pam McCartney, Yvonne McCartney, Gill Meachen, Mark Powley, Scott Riley, Ellie Skippings, June Smith, Richard Sykes, Mat Thompson, John Waddington, Alan West, Martin Young

2. Approval of previous minutes.

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on 26th April 2018, were approved as a true record.,

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising

4. (a) Presidents Report: (Richard has sent his report to AC for inclusion)

Stressed – a) Changes ahead by way of Reorganisation

b) Introduction of Rules of Hockey 2019 (when we know what they are

YHUA will organize a Rules evening for all umpires

- c) Concerns about concussion protocols
- d) Discipline

As the outgoing President Richard intends to introduce a Yorkshire Club Umpire of the Year

4. (b) Treasurers Report: Report sent to AC for inclusion)

- a) Copies of the unaudited accounts were issued.
- b) The Association is in a healthy financial position. This is in part due because we have not incurred expenses for a number of regularly occurring items such as Rule Books and Radios; With the introduction of the Rules of Hockey 2019 if they are only available as a mobile app and/or a PDF download from the FIH website YHUA should post a new item to that effect on the website.
- c) The level of subscriptions was discussed and it was decided to leave them as they are, particularly as there is no cost for supplying Rule Books.

4. (c) Secretary's Report:

From a secretarial point of view, this has been a relatively uneventful year. The YHA Handbook is no longer published in hard copy format and so this is one less task for the secretary to organise. There were no FIH rule changes and so no new rule books to post out to members. With the advent of the FIH app making the most up to date version of the rules easily available to members, we may dispense with hard copy books when the new rules are formally enacted in England later this year.

As ever there have been a few problems with the website but these have been easily sorted and I hope that members are making use of the website and the regular updates that are posted there. This is the General Committee's most efficient way of making information available to members and we will continue to use it next season. It is likely that there will be a new website – we have been briefed by England Hockey on their plans to put in place a new Officiating Management System. This is scheduled to be rolled out in the North and we will almost certainly be obliged to buy into this although no decision will be made until we have seen it in action.

Finally, England Hockey have recently approved a motion on new governance arrangements. There is still considerable work to be done on this and while it will ultimately impact on YHUA, this is unlikely to be next season.

4. (d) Selection

During the 2018/19 season YHUA has seen 9 new neutral umpires join the scheme which is an excellent result. Of these 7 have stayed the course and look to be real assets to the Association going forward. Most encouragingly 2 of these have already progressed to the A panel. As a result of this we have been able to fulfill in North

Division 2 East this season and regularly appoint to 2-4 games in the Yorkshire Premier League. It is of course a time of maximum uncertainty (and I do not mean Brexit!) for YHUA and all umpiring associations with the creation of the new national league structure for the 2019/20 season. This will inevitably draw more umpires upwards to cover the increased number of games at a higher level. Whilst this is a good thing for the individual umpires concerned to allow them the chance to umpire higher level and more challenging games it will lead to more and more games within Yorkshire having to be covered by club umpires as it is not likely that we will have enough umpires to cover all the fixtures available. We can only wait and see what happens and then act accordingly to cover as many fixtures as possible.

I would like to thank Barrie Pollard for his tireless work around the county and further afield in coaching and assessing all our umpires and helping to develop more club umpires through his successful club days.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the umpires in the neutral scheme for all their hard work and flexibility when required to make my job just a little bit easier!

I look forward to working with you all again next season.

4. (e) Coaching coordinator (Chief coach)

This season 2018/19, YHUA have been very lucky to have a small influx of new talented umpires, who have worked their way up the ladder – Lee, Dom, James, Noah, Jim & Gypsy. James Cowden was successful in recently gaining his Level 2 Award, and I have high hopes that Scott Riley & Jim Cockburn will follow his example next season (after lots of hard work).

I'm sure that the Clubs in Women's North Div.2 SE appreciated having appointed neutral umpires on occasion, and I hope to continue this next season, depending on the number of umpires available.

I believe the most successful aspect of this season has been the number of Clubs that have requested a Club Day. The Clubs have benefitted in 4 ways during their day with 2 or 3 YHUA coaches/assessors: up to 6 Level 1 Umpire Assessments being completed; Club umpires being coached; Club Developers working with YHUA coaches; and Club umpires occasionally umpiring with an experienced YHUA umpire. I have already had enquiries for bookings for next season from 2 Clubs.

There were 4 Club Developers who attended the Yorkshire Cup Finals Day at Halifax HC, and were made to undergo a baptism of fire by coaching, de-briefing AND writing coaching reports on YHUA umpires after their match. My sincerest thanks go out to all those umpires who submitted themselves to it and who treated their coaches perfectly. Thanks also to Nick, Mike & Dik for making it all possible. Who knows, we may get more Club Developers wishing to train up as County Developers, to join up with our latest apprentice Kerry Wragg.

Watch this space!

It will interesting to see how things will be in Yorkshire & beyond next season, with all the changes to leagues being made. With Regions losing teams & umpires to the new NPUA

setup, YHA & YHUA are bound to feel the effects of it all. Like most of you, I've heard rumours galore – we'll just have to wait and see!

Luckily, we still have a decent stock of radios, but plans will need to be in place for when they need repairing or replaced.

Following the example of NHUA, YHUA should advertise its own Facebook page as a forum for YHUA members to share their experiences.

Finally, can I again thank all the coaches & assessors who have made my job much easier by doing their jobs so efficiently, and with good grace & humour. They fully deserve the brand new coat they were given, and which will be on show next season. Thanks team!

4. (f) Membership

No report was presented.

5. Constitution

Changes had been proposed by the Umpiring General Committee and circulated in advance, essentially changing the composition of the General Committee. If the changes are agreed at this AGM it is proposed that the subsequent Election of Officers reflects the changes to the Constitution.

The changes were approved unanimously.

6. Election of officers

The following were elected:

President – Mike Talbot

Vice President – Lee Barron

Chairperson – Richard Skippings

Treasurer – Ross Anderson

Secretary – Alistair Copeland

Appointments Chairperson – Richard Sykes

Elected members – Vacant (no nominations)

Coaching Coordinator – Barrie Pollard

Young Umpiring Development – Vacant

7. Subscriptions

Subscription rates are to remain unchanged for the 2019 – 2020 season.

8. Awards

The **John Herbert Award** for club hospitality was awarded to Sheffield Hallam

The **Martin Black Award** for Services to the Association was awarded to Paul McCormick in recognition of his services to umpiring and the Association.

The outgoing President, Richard Skippings was presented with his Past President Tie.

DRAFT