



NPUA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Saturday 7 July 2012

Venue: Cannock Hockey Club

Attendees: Lili James (LJ), Richard Kirk (RK), Richard Wood (RW), Val Sassall (VS) and Karen Evans(KE).

Apologies: Hannah Sanders (HS), Martin Twist(MT), Sarah Chapman (SC), Sean Edwards (SE), Tim Benford (TB) and Annika Midwinter (AM).

1. Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in the minutes.

Areas discussed were:

- In future all actions required deadlines attributing to them.
- Need to identify a member of EC – not the Secretary – to input all actions onto the website so that they can all be followed through efficiently.
- If actions are attributed to members of EC not at meetings then they need to be informed as soon as possible after the meeting.

3. Strategic Overview

VS provided feedback on the way the relation with EHB was continuing. [We have been frustrated at times with progress due to the secondment of most of our contacts at EHB to LOCOG 2012 and the departure of the Officiating Manager].

We have identified issues with receiving our funding from EHB and we are hopeful that systems are now in place with EHB to alleviate these concerns for the future.

There has been plenty of discussion taking place with EHB over the last five months, however no formal meetings have taken place. We have still been actively working to set our budget requirements for the forthcoming season and we anticipate being able to address these with EHB following the completion of Olympics 2012.

Changes with personnel at EHB have also led to various discussions taking place between NPUA and EHB over the future developments. In the future we intend to have three operational meetings and other meetings on specific topics which are identified as essential moving forward. One main area is production of the Performance Umpiring Programme going forward for four years.

Priorities for the next six months include:

- Continuing to effectively manage the budget and confirm projections for 2012/13;
- Develop a clear understanding of the Association's marketing position and sponsorship options and clarification with EHB;
- Implementation of the Umpire Coaching Plan.

A lengthy discussion then took place regarding the current position with shirts and the possibility of them being available for the season 2012/13. The issues discussed were a lack of anything further from EHB Marketing department and not knowing where they were with this and also being aware of our requirements for our members and sponsor.

No samples for shirts had been received from EHB however RW had sourced an alternative shirt and this was displayed at the meeting and comments received regarding the design and logos and all aspects regarding delivery times and prices were discussed.

After much debate it was agreed that we would pursue this design with DMS and proceed to order two shirts for all active umpires and the intention was that they would be available at Conference for members to collect. Issues about sizing were discussed and it was agreed that we would use the actual imperial measurements on the website for individuals and order based on that as very few members actually change sizes, but in the meantime whilst the order was being processed we would ask members to indicate their required size on the website and we should be able to cover off all sizes on the first order. Women's styling was also a key consideration.

[Action: VS to follow up previous requests with EHB regarding the use of logos, RW to contact supplier, obtain hi vis colour samples and place relevant order (by the end of the week)]

4. Executive Committee Structure

A proposal to move the Expenses Administrator to a non-committee position was put forward and it was agreed that as long as the Expenses Administrator reported directly to the Treasurer that this would be recommended to the AGM as a Constitutional change. Also put forward was that the Kit Administrator did not need to necessarily be a committee role. This was agreed also but no changes were necessary to reflect this in the Constitution.

Only one member of the current Committee had indicated that they wished to stand down being TB. TB had indicated that he was happy to continue with the work he had been doing on the Communications and radios and EC decided to accept this kind offer.

Discussion took place concerning the number of officers of the Association if the membership agreed to the change proposed above. It was suggested that a role of Deputy Chairman/woman, a role which had been previously discussed, would be a good idea and that we should seek nominations from the membership on the same basis as for the previous year's election of Chairman with formal nominee, seconder and general statement being submitted to the Secretary in time for circulation to the membership prior to the AGM such that if the Constitutional changes were approved this could be progressed at the meeting.

[Action: The proposals for changes to the Constitution would be drafted by RW and RK prior to the notice of AGM being circulated (end of July).]

5. Outdoor and Indoor Selection Panels

VS reported that the EHIUSP minutes of the January meeting were still being chased. VS reported that Julia Gill had relinquished all her hockey responsibilities, due to health reasons, with immediate effect. Her roles are numerous and reflect how much work Julia was doing on the NPUA's behalf. The immediate need to fill certain positions is ongoing but the specific roles within NPUSP will be addressed by the Selection Committee as soon as possible. It was agreed that flowers would be sent to Julia.

[Action: LJ asap]

Also David Howell has decided to step down from selecting for the moment. He has thoroughly enjoyed his time on the selection panel but wants to concentrate on his umpiring for the immediate future.

It was agreed after good debate and the suggestions of several members that VS would seek the views of the Chair of Selectors regarding new selectors and this matter would be progressed further as the numbers currently on the Selection Panel had diminished to two on the Men's Panels and One on the Women's Panels.

[Action: VS]

Due to the February meeting being cancelled various documents were not discussed at length by the Selectors and are still being developed further and will be submitted to EC once the work is completed. These include the Assessor Pathway criteria, UM pathway process and the marking system.



[Actions: EHUSP to feedback/publish revised documents to EC as soon as practically possible.]

6 Conference 2012 Finalisation

An update on the status of the programme and timetable for conference had been circulated to EC. Various points were raised about the proposed programme which needed to be fed back to the Conference sub-committee.

[Action: RK by 16th July]

The various awards available to be made at the Conference were discussed and the names agreed. The names of the winner of the Graham Nash award, Indoor umpire and the Umpire Support award were required by RW by 18th July

[Action: HS to notify RW]

7 Finances

RK provided an update on the status of the Association's finances now that the end of year has passed. The figures for the EHB funds were also presented. An area of concern was highlighted with the junior events where the NYUPL umpires are appointed and the policy on the costing of these events needs to be reviewed and agreed with EHB so that significant expenditure above our allocated income is not incurred.

We had been thanked by EHB for our vigilance over the indoor season and keeping additional costs down, thanks once again to our members for their help in this regard.

Subscription levels were discussed for the forthcoming season and it was agreed that a small increase in the level of subscription be proposed at the AGM especially as there had been no increase in subscriptions since 2005.

The take up of the Olympic tickets that had been acquired for the use of NPUA members was discussed. The take up had not been as anticipated, possibly due to the number of NPUA members being involved in the event. It was agreed that the first action should be to see if EHB would be willing to take back our unallocated tickets and refund the monies paid out. Alternatively we will be seeking other routes to reduce the number of unallocated tickets.

[Action: VS asap]

8 Coaching

A report had been circulated to the EC of the current position of the coaching strategy. Discussion revolved around this and the issues associated with developing this further with changes in personnel having taken place at EHB and also from within NPUA since its inception.

The intention is to report the latest developments at the conference and a Coaching Conference is planned to be held in the second half of season 2012/13 and the date for this is expected to be published in October 2012 to give coaches plenty of advance notice.

9 Fitness Tests

It was agreed after a good discussion and a review of the panels affected that the fitness test requirements would be the same as previous seasons except for the following anomaly that has been highlighted to the EC:

All umpires (whether umpiring Men's or Women's) will be required to complete the fitness test that is appropriate to their own gender and not related to the gender of the game that they are umpiring. The beep test measurements are specific to the gender of the umpire.

Therefore the men umpiring in the Womens game will be required to run the level of fitness as required by the men umpiring in the Mens game:

The amended criteria are now as follows:

Men umpiring on the Premier, Premier Development or A* (or wishing to be eligible for promotion to one of these levels)

Beep Test

For umpires aged under 30 – Level 10

For umpires aged under 40 – Level 9

For umpires aged over 40 – Level 8

Cooper test

2,500 metres in 12 minutes, irrespective of age

Men umpiring on the A Panel (or wishing to be eligible for promotion to this level)

Beep Test

Level 7.5 irrespective of age

Cooper test

2,150 metres in 12 minutes

Women umpiring on the Premier, Premier Development or A* (or wishing to be eligible for promotion to one of these levels)

Beep Test

For umpires aged under 30 – Level 9

For umpires aged under 40 – Level 8

For umpires aged over 40 – Level 7

Cooper test

2,300 metres in 12 minutes, irrespective of age

Women umpiring on the A Panel (or wishing to be eligible for promotion to this level)

Beep Test

Level 6.5 irrespective of age

Cooper test

1,900 metres in 12 minutes

10 AOB

- a. **Constitution:** it was confirmed an amendment for the Constitution would be required at the next AGM:
 - i. Section 2: the Committee the NPUA used to report to at EHB no longer exists so this section needs updating. [Action: RK and RW for the notice as above]
- b. **Date for future EC meetings:** A provisional date of 31 August 2012 was set for the next EC meeting at Loughborough University.

Meeting closed at 16.35