



## NPUA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Date:** Sunday 6 November 2011

**Venue:** Barns Hotel, Cannock

**Attendees:** Hannah Sanders (HS), Martin Twist (MT), Lili James (LJ), Richard Kirk (RK), Sarah Chapman (SC), Richard Wood (RW), Annika Midwinter (AM) and Val Sassall (VS).

**Apologies:** Sean Edwards (SE), Karen Evans (KE) and Tim Benford (TB).

### 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.

### 3. Conference feedback

MT provided a written update of members' feedback from Conference 2011 and a verbal summary. Overall the feedback from members was very positive and on a par to the previous year. It was noted that few NYUPL members attended and that it had been suggested that NYUPL attendance for 2012 should be targeted at the NYUPL A Panel and review the level of funding available. There was a discussion about Conference 2012 to confirm date; venue, cost and the organising committee. It was confirmed that the provisional date is 1 & 2 September 2012 at Loughborough University. The organising committee was confirmed as Sean Edwards, Hannah Sanders and Martin Twist from the Executive Committee (EC) with assistance from Dave Dowdall. MT to organise the first meeting/tele-conference for the organisers, for before Christmas.

[Action: MT to email organising committee and chase Loughborough for 2011 costs and a 2012 quote.]

It was recognised that as with the previous year the level of video footage was extremely effective during the Conference, but very difficult to obtain and often last minute. This season the EC will be encouraging all members to identify suitable clips as they are entitled to receive a DVD / copy of any game that is filmed in which they umpire. All members are encouraged to liaise with the clubs to obtain the footage and then contribute towards the NPUA Conference.

[Action: MT to email clubs for footage]

[Action: TB to set up 'mailbox' to receive footage of games for NPUATV and to encourage members to watch and record time code for use at Conference 2012]

It was also noted that feedback indicates that some members feel there is not enough content related to EHL conference level hockey. In order to identify what our umpires need, a survey of A and B panel umpires will be conducted to identify content for conference and how it could be tailored more effectively.

[Action: SC and AM]

### 4. EHB meetings

VS provided an update on meetings with EHB representatives and progress. She informed the EC that a new EHB newsletter, called '*It's Official*' has been launched. EHB is distributing this to technical officials, UMs and umpires.

### 5. Budget approvals

RK provided an update on the NPUA budgets for 2011/12 and year-to-date. In particular, the development budget was discussed for member's development in 2011/12 and with a view to

2014. The EC discussed several possibilities for 2012 and beyond, several of which will now be investigated to determine costs and appetite.

[Action: RK and VS to confirm budget with EHB]

Budgets for IDG and the development group to Los Reyes were discussed and agreed. VS to feedback to Chairman of EHUSP.

[Action: VS]

The limited budget for the Indoor season 2011/12 was also discussed with a view to understand how the NPUA can be most efficient with its costs. It was agreed that it is not acceptable to expect members to travel over two hours without overnight accommodation on the evening prior to the event, for health and safety and performance reasons.

However, members within two hours travel to a venue are encouraged to either stay with other members on a Friday night or look for cheaper and easier methods of transport (such as booking super saver train tickets). Members are reminded to ask for prior approval for Friday night accommodation via RW, and alternatively RK, before booking any accommodation through EHB, as per outdoor process.

[Action: HS to add news item]

## 6. Outdoor & Indoor Selection

**England Hockey Umpire Selection Panel (EHUSP)** – it was confirmed Julia Gill is appointed to continue leading the Women's Premier and A\*/A Panel and Liz Pelling will continue with the B Panel. This change has been made permanent for this season, as a result of Val Sassall resigning from her role as an Outdoor Selector and leader of Panel A & A\*. Julia and Liz were thanked for all their hard work in the early part of the season, to make this change successful and smooth.

**England Hockey Indoor Umpire Selection Panel (EHIUSP)** – the EC are delighted to confirm the appointment of David Lane (who will not be umpiring indoor this season) as the new Chairman of EHIUSP, following VS resignation. Barry Anderson and Liz Pelling will continue on the Panel, with Andy Mair and Sarah Bush also appointed to the Panel – both of whom bring many years of experience to the role, as highly recognised international and domestic indoor umpires.

As per outdoor selectors, every indoor selector's tenure will be reviewed at the end of season.

[Action: HS to add news item]

### Assessors

It was confirmed that the description of an outdoor assessor needs updating on the website.

[Action: HS to draft to VS]

It was also agreed that the process to become a trainee assessor and then an assessor needs documenting and adding to the website.

[Action: HS to draft to VS]

### Umpire Managers

A previous pathway to develop umpires managers (UMs) was discussed with a view to review and update the pathway, if possible. This would then be added to the website and in the next edition of Whistle Talk, if the content is appropriate and produced in time.

[Action: HS to circulate for EC feedback]

The selection criteria for UMs would also be added to the document, in addition to clarification concerning recommendation for appointment to the Continental List.

[Action: VS]



### **Club feedback**

It was noted the new comments box at the end of the club feedback form is having some success, although it was discussed whether all feedback was producing productive learning points. It was agreed, that a review of the feedback will be conducted at end of season as it is too early to determine if it has served its purpose.

In addition, clubs will be engaged through the EHB Club Committee to determine what criteria they would find most useful to 'mark' umpires on, with a view to possibly change the form for 2012/13.

[Action: MT]

### **7. Coaching**

KE provided a written update on the coaching strategy, now that she is the new coaching lead for the NPUA. In her absence, VS provided a verbal overview. KE is currently conducting a review of the coaching strategy to ensure it is aligned with EHB and the coach playing pathway.

Several possibilities have been identified and some issues clarified. KE will continue to work up the development pathway.

### **8. Fitness test review**

Fitness testing for 2012/13 was discussed and a report from KE was provided on the background and criteria for the beep and cooper test, and an overview on those who had need to complete an alternative fitness test due to medical reasons. This will continue to be reviewed as more evidence is gathered.

[Action: VS and KE]

### **9. Clothing**

**Casual clothing** – RW provided an update on the stocks and sales of the casual clothing range which is proving very successful. The EC approved the new design for the 300 milestone match shirt as several members are approaching this milestone for the first time in the Associations history.

It was also confirmed that the same milestone match shirts will be provided to indoor umpires and coaches/assessors who reach 100, 200 or 300 matches, as new reporting mechanisms are now in place.

**Umpiring shirts** – it was confirmed that any new designs or suppliers for umpiring shirts need to be confirmed by the EC February meeting in order to ensure supply by the beginning of the 2012/13 season. RW provided an update on umpiring shirts currently held in stock, which are very limited in some sizes.

[Action: VS and RW to take forward]

### **10. AOB**

#### **Webmaster:**

- Additional changes to website: it was agreed that the webmaster would explore with Tex Solutions to possibility of enabling members to indicate their availability per role, for example being able to indicate availability for each role as an umpire / coach / assessor / UM that they may hold. [Action: HS to feed back to webmaster]
- Other possible changes to the system were agreed. [Action: HS to feed back to webmaster]

#### **Technology / Radios**

- TB circulated a written update on technology and microphones, looking at new technology.
- It was confirmed that several members have purchased the radios which were recently

approved. The EC will continue to monitor the development of technology and use by members and clubs.

**Other issues:**

- A proposal was put forward to remember Graham Nash formally. [Action: HS to feed back to Dave Dowdall]
- **Masters Hockey:** several Master's series will be hosted in between the Olympics and Paralympics, such as the Masters World Cup. NPUA has been invited to determine if and how we can support the appointments of umpires. [Actions: VS to feed back to Master's Hockey]
- **Review:** It was suggested that the Constitution should be reviewed in the next EC meeting in February [Action: RW]
- **Dissertations:** several members have recently approached the EC about asking for member's to participate in their dissertations. It was agreed the two applications should be supported where possible and the findings shared with members to determine any learnings from the research. [Action: VS to coordinate and feedback to members]
- **EHB 2012/13 season calendar:** the calendar for the new season has been published by EHB. All EC members are asked to review the calendar and feedback to VS. [Action: All]
- **Nominations to EHF Committees:** the EC were asked to provide input, on short time frames, to make a recommendation for an English representative to the EHF Appointments Committee and the EHF Development Committee. Paul-Box Grainger and Margaret Hunnaball were nominated, respectively. Future thoughts are required to ensure succession planning. [Action: VS]
- **Date for future EC meetings:**
  - Sunday 5 February 2012 at Barns Hotel, Cannock
  - AM to review locations to ensure we are minimizing costs to the maximum.

Meeting closed at 15.46