



Executive Committee Conference Call

Date: Wednesday 9th December 2015

Attendance: Martin Twist (MT), Sean Edwards (SE), David Ellcock (DE), Mark Everard (ME), Charles Hallows (CH), Clare White (CW)

Apologies: Mike Davidson, Richard Kirk, Frances Block, Richard Glynne-Jones, Jonathan Hull

1. Introduction to NPUA Exec for 2015/16

MT began by welcoming the new members of the Exec for this season, and thanking everyone for offering their time to help take the association forwards. He encouraged all members of the Exec to voice their opinions on all topics as everyone's opinion is valued. We are a members' organisation and it is the responsibility of the Exec to make decisions for the benefit of our members. He also reinforced the importance of keeping certain topics confidential.

2. NPUA Conference

The Exec discussed the feedback from members about the 2015 NPUA conference. Overall feedback was hugely positive, with the venue at Warwick University receiving excellent feedback. Our guest speakers were popular, particularly Ged Curran and Rob Argent. The use of video clips and voting software was once again very popular, however many members suggested that the clips should be used to reach consensus on certain topics. The technical support at the awards dinner was not acceptable, which was reflected in members' feedback.

ME will take the lead in organising the 2016 conference, with support from MD and CW.

The 2016 NPUA Conference has been provisionally booked for the first in September (3rd and 4th September).

SE to post news item to inform NPUA members.

SE to send email to inform regional HUAs.

3. Sponsorship

The sponsorship from Steelcase expires at the end of December. The Exec are actively looking for a new sponsor, and anyone with ideas is encouraged to speak to Martin Twist in the first instance.

MT to draw up supporting document for potential sponsors, outlining NPUA and what the association can offer a sponsor.

SE to send MT membership stats and information on NPUA's online and social media presence.

New umpiring shirts will be required next season as the current shirts have the Steelcase logo on, and have now been in circulation for a few years. Once the sponsorship situation is confirmed, CW will lead in sourcing new umpiring shirts for NPUA.

CW to await outcome of sponsorship situation.

4. Replacement of tournament radios

The current tournament radios are at the end of their life and need to be replaced. MD has been approached by one company offering a solution, and the Exec are aware of another solution that may meet our requirements. ME agreed to lead on this for the Exec.

ME to collate solutions from two suppliers and investigate other options, then circulate to Exec.



5. Development groups

The Exec is keen to exploit domestic and international events during the 2015/16 season to host development groups. Recent groups have received excellent feedback from those that attended, but numbers have not been great. It was suggested that a larger number of more targeted development groups for smaller numbers could encourage greater uptake, with the support of panel selectors.

Individual national league fixtures, as well as the relegation playoff matches, promotion playoff matches and the end of season playoff tournament were identified as potential opportunities for domestic development groups. Internationally the women's Champions Trophy in London, the EHL KO16 and various EuroHockey tournaments in the summer could provide good opportunities for development events.

CH will lead on development groups for the Exec.

CH to send suggestions to Exec before next call/meeting.

6. NPUA Portal and social media

The re-launch of the NPUA portal has been successful, with the number of NPUA members registered being significantly higher than last season. SE is awaiting the next batch of clips, which will enable clips to be added to the portal more regularly.

SE to chase next batch of video clips.

The #npuaskills social media campaign was launched in October, with the first three clips receiving significant attention across Facebook and Twitter. The three clips have reached over 20,000 views between them, with thoughts and comments from people around the hockey community. As a result of the clips, the number of Facebook followers has increased by 10% and Twitter followers by 9%. More clips are required to ensure that clips can be loaded more often, to increase contributions.

SE to speak to RGJ about getting some coverage from EH social media accounts.

SE to trial Twitter and Facebook polls for the next clip.

CH recommended that a reminder should be circulated to NPUA members given the increase in our social media presence. Members are actively encouraged to contribute on social media, but should do so in line with our social media policy.

SE to circulate social media reminder to NPUA members.

MD has been working with a developer to put together some proposals for enhancements to the front end of the NPUA website.

MD to arrange conference call with MT, CW and developer to discuss ideas, and present full proposal at Exec meeting in February.

7. Update from Selection Strategy and Performance Committees

MT provided an update from the recent meetings of the Selection Strategy and Outdoor Performance Committee, a summary of which is available on the Selection page of the NPUA website. Overall the move to the new selection structure has gone very well and the committees are functioning successfully.

There is a desire from the selection committees to enhance the current club feedback system on the website. SE confirmed that this has already been discussed at the previous Exec meeting, and that he has had initial conversations with the EHL committee, who are in support of developing the system.

SE to draft improvements to the club feedback system and circulate to Exec and Selection Strategy committee, in time to receive feedback and make changes before next EHL committee meeting.



8. Discipline

An update on two disciplinary incidents was provided.

9. Dates and Venues for next meeting

The next Exec meeting will be held on Saturday 13th February – venue tbc but likely to be in the Reading/Oxford area.

There will also be a meeting in the summer which is provisionally scheduled for Sunday 5th June, with the next conference call to be potentially held on Wednesday 20th January.