



Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Saturday 1st February 2014
Venue: Upper Tulse Hill

Apologies: David Ellcock, Richard Glynne-Jones
Attendance: Martin Twist (MT), Hannah Sander (HS), Richard Kirk (RK), Sean Edwards (SE), Frances Block (FB), Mike Davidson (MD), Mark Williams (MW)
Ex-officio: Paul Box-Grainger (PBG)
Guest: Matt Harrison (MH) as Webmaster and Chairman of NYUAG

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

These were accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. Operational update

Radios – the radios are to be packed and posted during the day's meeting.

Approximately 20 radios can be delivered to members at Wembley tomorrow; the cost to post the 99 remaining radios will be approximately £700 which will be absorbed by the Association. Members will be asked to purchase their own carry bag to ensure the radio is looked after – a suggested item will be circulated. DH will send details of options for moulded ear pieces to SE for circulation.

MT thanked all those involved in turning this round so quickly, in particular DH. MT also noted thanks to England Hockey on behalf of NPUA.

MT to liaise with Tim Benford regarding coordination of current radios for coaches.

DH to email SE with details of other optional earpieces for circulation to members.

MT to brief members on radio distribution, care and best practice

MT to write to Sally Munday (EH) on behalf of NPUA

SE to manage the process of sending radios to new members.

MH to explore a 'radio' section of the personal area.

Financial Update – RK provided a financial update. The finances are as expected at this point of the season. Some expenses have been outstanding for a while, but are not at the stage where a zero value will be entered.

The Exec agreed that where match feedback and expenses have not been entered more than three months after the event, the Treasurer may enter zero cost and the member will lose these expenses. (This will not affect expenses entered into the system but not yet claimed/paid.)

RK will chase members with outstanding match feedback and expenses.

There was a discussion regarding the women's IDG & PG budget submission, which fits within our EH deliverables. Feedback was provided to PBG who will take to EHUSP meeting next week and re-submit via email in mid February.

PBG to discuss with EHUSP and re-submit in mid February.

Shop Update – SE provided a brief update on the NPUA shop. There are some concerns around delivery times, particularly with candidate shirts which will be investigated.

SE / MH to discuss with Daran Cass and SilverFX.

Watcher Convergence Session – The first session was held at Futures Cup in October. The Exec would like to record their thanks to Jo Pennycook for her organisation of the event. HS shared feedback from the event which was very positive, with a few suggestions for improvement. A discussion was held regarding the next event to be held in the second half of the season.



Review of Actions List – The actions list was reviewed and updated.

3. Selection Update

PBG provided an update from recent selection meetings and changes to personnel/roles. He also floated the idea that these changes provide an opportunity to revisit the structure/role of EHUSP.

PBG to develop his ideas and present back to Exec by April.

Marking Matrix - The marking matrix has been approved by EHUSP and the Exec, so will be published this week, with a supporting news item and email.

SE to publish and communicate.

National Programme Development Group – EH are proposing changes to the process for candidates gaining their Level 3 award and consequently membership of NPUA. Regions would nominate those with potential for L3 within the next year, and these umpires would be coached by L2 coaches and supported through a number of assessments in the National Programme.

The Regions have given their support to the proposals. A number of further details need to be finalised on cost, resource to manage, entry requirements; as well as an understanding of the commitment of time needed to deliver.

The Exec were generally supportive of the proposals and await a further update of the draft from MT/RGJ.

RGJ/MT to provide revised document to the Exec for feedback
MT to liaise with EHUSP on proposals

4. NPUA Conference

MD presented proposals on potential conference venues for this year. The group provisionally approved the Warwick proposal with a few things for MD to check with the venue.

MD to approach selected members regarding joining the conference organising committee.
MD to clarify outstanding details with venue and communicate to Exec.
MD to look for hotels as an option for Friday night accommodation.
FB to approach CWG regarding content they'd like included at the event.

5. Website Update

SE asked MH to explore the idea of a landing page for the website.

MH to explore, SE to provide content ideas.

There were 97,938 individual visits to the website in 2013, two thirds of which is the fixtures/appointments page.

The website development for member's occupation and skill sets has been completed. The ability to enter radio serial numbers has also been added.

SE to give MW access to occupation and skill set data.
SE to give DH access to radio serial number data.
MW to collate responses to occupation and skill set data.

FB suggested that the mobile site could also include the post code for a tournament hotel that a UM would enter.

MH to explore.



PBG suggested the number of visible lines of each news item to be extended to four.

MH to implement.

6. Development Groups Update

World Cup – It is still intended to hold a development group during the world cup in The Hague. NPUA members have EHF/FIH commitments over the first two weekends, however these represent the most cost effective and beneficial development opportunities.

MW to send SE a news item to advertise and ask for availability. SE also to add to twitter and Facebook

MH to load availability on the website.

FB to approach CWG for potential facilitators.

Playoffs / county championships – These tournaments also represent an opportunity.

MW to explore options. MH to add availability to website.

7. NPUA Strategy

EH Deliverables / strategy – MT gave an overview of EH deliverables and strategy, which must fit in with our budget submission to EH.

Fitness – A discussion was held regarding the culture of fitness in the NPUA. MD submitted a paper around fitness strategy for the association moving forward, given the mandatory fitness testing for next season. It was agreed that NPUA would provide some advice to members on improving fitness and passing the fitness test, but that the responsibility for personal fitness is with our members.

MD to draft email and send to SE for circulation.

MT and MD to draft and circulate NPUA Fitness Policy

It was agreed that a list be drafted of approved watchers for FIH fitness tests – this is for FIH quarterly fitness tests only, not domestic NPUA tests.

PBG to liaise with FIH and clarify exact requirements for fitness testing.

HS to draft list of approved watchers.

We will include the requirement for travel expenses to quarterly fitness tests for English umpires in our budget submission to EHB.

RK and MT to include in budget submission.

MD to explore opportunities for the way technology can support fitness improvement and testing in the future.

Web Portal Development – DH submitted information on the options available to us for a web portal, particularly working alongside EH's new rules website. The key before we move forward is deciding what we actually want the portal to do.

The group approved the development of a forum that is NPUA branded and linked from the website.

DH to continue work on developing forum.

SE to work on communication to members.

HS to lead on taking the idea of a TU&C video system forward aiming for a conference launch.



Indoor hockey – It was agreed that we do not exploit the tournament opportunities provided by indoor hockey to enhance development of our members – both umpires and watchers. We should look to exploit more tournaments, perhaps with coaches videoing matches.

MW to look into ideas for the next indoor season.

Recruiting umpires – FB suggested the idea of elite NPUA members presenting to national league clubs and u21 international teams to encourage them to take up umpiring. This also needs to be part of a broader pathway to accelerate the progression of these umpires.

**MT and FB to liaise with RGJ about a potential pathway.
FB to produce presentation documentation if approved.**

8. Any Other Business

Umpire Manager Pathway – There is a lack of clarity over how the Umpire Pathway should be implemented.

MT, HS and Dawn Bonner to discuss.

The meeting closed at 16.00 with thanks to PBG for hosting.