



Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Sunday 29th June 2014
Venue: Warwick University

Attendance: Martin Twist (MT), Hannah Sanders (HS), Richard Kirk (RK), Sean Edwards (SE), David Ellcock (DE), Darryl Hoffman (DH)
Ex-officio: Paul Box-Grainger (PBG) as Chairman of EHUSP, Richard Glynne-Jones (RGJ) as National Officiating & Volunteers Manager
Apologies: Frances Block, Mike Davidson, Mark Williams

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

These were accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. Financial update

At the request of the NPUA Executive Committee, Sharp Focus have completed filming work at various events, both domestic and in Europe. This is to be used as material for the portal that will be launched next season.

RK and HS to ask PBG for a breakdown of the cost of completing this work.

SE and HS to send RK a list of those that reviewed footage for NPUA so he can pay expenses.

In addition the FIH have sanctioned access to World Cup footage for use in the portal.

Spend against the EH budget has been roughly break even this year. There has been a large deficit from performance appointments which has been balanced against a surplus in other areas, largely IDG and WPG costs.

A discussion was held around travel expenses following a query from a member. For clarity, a policy will be developed and a reminder will added to the website before the start of the season.

RK and SE to publish an expenses policy on the website with an accompanying news item.

There is no proposal from the Executive Committee to change the subscriptions for 2014/15, other than the introduction of a new subscription category for members of the National Programme Development Panel.

RK, MT and RGJ to continue discussions about this subscription level.

3. Operational update

MT and SE attended the EHB Umpiring Conference and provided an update. RGJ thanked MT and SE for their attendance and contribution. MT also provided a brief update on the relationship with EH.

SE attended the EHL League Committee meeting where a discussion was held around whether the new FIH rules would be used next season. NPUA provided feedback and will wait to hear EH's decision. If necessary, time may be required at conference to discuss this.

The Executive Committee reviewed the nominations for the annual NPUA awards that are presented at conference and agreed the award winners.

SE to confirm winners to MD who is arranging the trophies.

The Exec discussed the introduction of a "life member" membership category to honour those that have made an immense contribution to NPUA.

HS and SE to review constitution and provide a draft to Exec.



4. Conference update

MD provided an update and draft programme in advance of the meeting which the Exec discussed. There was also a discussion held around potential guest speakers, key messages and content.

SE to provide feedback to MD

5. BUCS Appointments

SE provided an update on BUCS request that NPUA appoint umpires to their premier league on a Wednesday afternoon/evening. BUCS will mandate that all Premier games would start after 5pm to allow the appointment of NPUA umpires.

The Executive agreed with this proposal but asked that SE go back to BUCS and ensure that this had been discussed and agreed with the Regional and County HUAs who may currently appoint to these matches.

SE to speak to BUCS about communication with existing appointing associations and to discuss with RGJ.

6. Portal Update

HS provided an update on the development of the new web portal and sourcing of video footage. There is a lot of content being produced following filming at recent events, but we need to progress with how the content would be hosted. Opportunities to align and share costs with EH should be the preference so that we begin to develop a combined resource for umpiring in England, with appropriate control over access. Opportunities to allow umpires and clubs to upload footage (e.g. for discussion within a panel) should also be reviewed.

HS, DH and PBG to continue developments, including discussion with portal developers.

7. Exec roles for 2014/15 season

DH will take over management of radio distribution from SE going forward.

SE to liaise with DH over existing stock.

The Exec has not received any suggestions or nominations for Deputy Chairman or Executive Committee members. A discussion was held around potential members.

MT to discuss further.

DE is stepping down from EHL Committee role due to the location of meetings and other activities. SE will take on this role for next season.

SE to communicate with Sue Bodycomb and Stephen Barlow.

8. EHUSP and EHIUSP update

PBG provided an update on selection during the 2013/14 season.

MT has approached Dawn Bonner about taking on the appointing of coaches and assessors for next season. MT continues to work closely with the Coaching Working Group on the development of a strategic approach to coaching, and amendments to coaching reports and feedback processes.

MT to continue discussions and feedback to Exec.

The Exec agreed that the ability to show availability for only one gender should be removed from the website for the upcoming season.

SE to communicate with the webmaster.

The Exec discussed the performance and membership of EHUSP and EHIUSP for the 2014/15 season. All existing members of EHUSP and EHIUSP were reappointed, and David Ellcock was added to EHUSP.

MT to contact EHUSP and EHIUSP

SE to update website permissions and add a news item.



The Exec are disappointed that despite very clear guidance given in the marking matrix document, some assessors have still given marks outside the specified boundaries. The website will be updated to include a drop down box for marks, so that only marks stated on the matrix can be entered.

SE to liaise with webmaster.

MT presented a series of proposals to change the selection, assessment and development process. A discussion was held around the proposals and feedback given to MT. Some areas can be launched for 2014/15 whilst other areas will be held for further consultation and potential implementation in 2015/16.

MT will refine the proposals for further discussion at Conference.

The 2014/15 season will see the introduction of the new National Programme Development Panel – the new transition process for umpires hoping to achieve level 3. A discussion was held around the operational management of this panel, including radios, shirts, subscription levels and how the panel will be managed.

MT to take forward.

9. AOB

The Exec reviewed the list of NPUA assessors and agreed that all of these would be reappointed for the 2014/15 season.

MT has received a request from Barry Anderson who is interested in returning to NPUA as an assessor. The Exec agreed to appoint Barry.

MT to communicate with Barry. SE to update website.

There are still a number of outstanding website developments.

MT to collate a list and discuss with the webmaster Tex Solutions.

Feedback has been received that many members are struggling with the earpieces provided with the radios. The earpieces can be shaped using hot water. Other ear pieces will be available for members to purchase at their own cost.

DH to draft a news item and send to SE. Also follow up at Conference

Some feedback has been received about a lack of flexibility in the social media policy during tournaments.

DE to review policy, compare to FIH and circulate suggested changes to Exec.

SE asked RGJ about the rules regarding appointing umpires over 18 to junior events and the requirement to have a DBS check.

RGJ to send SE a document outlining DBS rules.

SE raised concerns around the time taken for some watchers to submit reports after matches and tournaments. PBG and MT confirmed that this has been addressed following the recent EHUSP meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.15pm, with thanks to Mike Davidson for arranging the venue.