



Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Friday 5th September
Venue: Warwick Conferences

Apologies: Darryl Hoffman, Richard Glynne-Jones
Attendance: Martin Twist (MT), Hannah Sanders (HS), Richard Kirk (RK), Sean Edwards (SE), Frances Block (FB), Mike Davidson (MD), David Ellcock (DE), Mark Williams (MW)
Ex-officio: Paul Box-Grainger (PBG)

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

These were accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. NPUA Conference update

The Exec reviewed the final outstanding actions for the NPUA Conference, including the roles that each Exec member would complete over the weekend.

3. NPUA AGM

A discussion was held around Executive Committee roles for the upcoming season, in particular the role of Deputy Chairman. The Exec agreed that with HS stepping down from the committee there is a lack of female representation on the committee, particularly in Officer roles, and have actively approached some female members of NPUA about the possibility of joining the Executive Committee. Volunteers will also be encouraged to come forward at the AGM if they feel they can bring fresh ideas to the committee.

4. National Programme Development Panel

The Exec discussed the support required for the NPDP in its inaugural season. Rob Jenkins and Sue Howard offered their support in taking on management of the panel, but the Exec agreed that it would prefer for them to focus their attention on full NPUA members on their respective panels. It was agreed that MT would be the initial point of contact for all NPDP umpires initially - this has been communicated and will be reviewed at the end of the first season.

It was agreed that all NPDP umpires would be provided with NPUA shirts and a radio (unless they already have them as indoor members or through their region).

5. EHUSP & EHIUSP update

PBG provided an update on EHUSP and EHIUSP, including information on the appointing situation following the implementation of compulsory fitness testing.

Sarah Bush has retired from all roles in the NPUA and so an additional indoor selector is required. This will be discussed at the October Exec meeting.

6. Fitness

With the re-introduction of compulsory fitness testing, the Exec clarified the order in which umpires would be appointed should there be a shortfall of umpires for national programme appointments. The Exec also reinforced its support for universal appointing by EHUSP where required, whilst respecting members' preferences where possible.

7. Web portal

The web portal is ready for launch shortly after the NPUA conference, to include footage shared with members at the conference. A discussion was held around who would have access to the portal and the content that would be published on it.

8. Development of NPUA members

Given time constraints, this discussion was deferred to the next meeting in October, whilst not underestimating its importance. It is likely that the Euro2015 event in London will be a key development opportunity for the coming season and the Exec are working closely with England Hockey to ensure we our members can get as much benefit as possible.



9. EH Budget submission

A draft of the budget submission to EH has been shared amongst the Officers. This will be reviewed further and submitted to England Hockey before their review.

10. Any other business

The Exec has received an incredibly generous donation of £1,000 from Carol Unwin, who has retired from umpiring this summer. Carol's request is that this money be used to support the "bread and butter umpires, without whom the association would not exist". The Exec recorded it's thanks to Carol for her generosity and will discuss ways in which this money can be spent. Members are encouraged to get in touch if they have any ideas.

DE has reviewed the content of the social media policy at the request of the Exec and EHUSP. He is happy that the current policy is fit for purpose and doesn't require review.

On behalf of the Exec, MT recorded his thanks to a number of members who have stepped down from senior roles within the association over the last season:

- Geoff Blakeman, who stepped down as a selector after several years of service on EHUSP;
- Sarah Bush, who has stepped down as an indoor selector and retired from umpiring after a number of years as one of our most respected umpires;
- Sarah Chapman, who has stepped down after a number of years serving on the Executive Committee and as Membership Secretary;
- Val Sassall, who has retired from the NPUA after several years as an umpire, assessor, umpire manager, selector and as Chair;
- Hannah Sanders, who is stepping down from the Exec and her position as Deputy Chair after a number of years in senior roles. The Exec also congratulated Hannah on her recent engagement.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with thanks to MD for organising the venue and for all his excellent work in organising the NPUA Conference.