



## Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015  
 Venue: The Barns Hotel, Cannock

Attendance: Martin Twist (MT), Mike Davidson (MD), Richard Kirk (RK), Sean Edwards (SE), David Ellcock (DE), Mark Everard (ME), Clare White (CW)

Apologies: Frances Block, Darryl Hoffman, Mark Williams, Paul Box-Grainger, Richard Glynne-Jones

### 1. Minutes from the previous meeting

These were accepted as a true and accurate record.

There are two outstanding actions from the minutes regarding updates to the website – there is currently no functionality to collate the list of members' occupations. Also it appears that outdoor assessors are able to see previous assessment reports for umpires they are due to assess.

An additional development is required to flag where an umpire with a club affiliation has been appointed to that club.

**SE and MT to chase updates with Webmaster and Tex Solutions.**

### 2. Financial update

A significant amount of filming has been authorised by the Executive Committee to contribute clips of domestic hockey to the NPUA development portal. The Executive agreed on a fee payable to the supplier.

**RK to arrange payment to supplier to cover the cost of obtaining footage.**

We have not yet received the latest instalment of EH funding. Richard Glynne-Jones has asked for further justification of NPUA strategy and deliverables. The Executive held a discussion around the current strategy document and agreed who would provide the information to RGJ.

**MT to collate information and provide to RGJ.**

### 3. Web strategy

A discussion was held regarding the development of NPUA's web strategy. It was agreed that the areas to focus on fall into three categories:

- Development portal and discussion forum
- Tex Solutions functionality including appointments and reports
- External presence to aid sponsorship and recruitment

**SE and MT to review tender document and brand. MT to send tender document to the Webmaster and Tex Solutions.**

**SE to approach Tex Solutions about adding tender document to website home page.**

**CW to draft a news item requesting expressions of interest from members to support the development work.**

**Exec Committee to put together a working group to take this forward.**

**SE to liaise with PBG about approaching FIH for footage of new rules incidents for conference and portal.**

The UmpireTalk portal has never been formally launched following the trial period last season. The Exec agreed that it should be fully launched to all members, with no segmentation by panels or roles.



**SE to liaise with DH about combining all panels into a single forum.  
SE to communicate forum to members, including news item and email.**

#### **4. Coaching and selection update**

EHUSP have requested that a targeted development group for a selected few men's premier and future men's premier umpires at the EuroHockey Nations II in Prague in July. The Exec agreed a budget to support this, which would cover hotel accommodation and tournament entry for invitees. Travel and food would be at the invitees own cost.

**MT to inform EHUSP.**

The NPUA fitness document for international umpires has been approved by EHUSP and is to be circulated to affected umpires.

**MD to circulate.**

EHUSP has developed a new process for development and assessment of Umpire Managers. A trial is currently underway and EHUSP will feed back on its effectiveness at the next meeting.

The support available to NPDP umpires has improved since Simon Gillett was put in place as lead of the group. The Exec recorded their thanks to Simon for his work on this and improving communication with NPDP umpires.

SE has not received notification of some recent successful level 3 assessments.

**SE to email assessors and remind them that Secretary should be informed if an NPDP umpire passes their selection.**

SE has not received confirmation of panel changes from the indoor season.

**DE to send list to SE for updating website.**

The Exec would like to record its congratulations to Lee Barron and Frances Block who umpired their respective finals the recent Indoor World Cup in Leipzig.

A discussion was held regarding the future of the EHUSP following previous discussing held by the Executive Committee last season. The desire remains to ensure that performance and development of umpiring are the key focus of NPUA's committees. Discussions will be held regarding the future structure of EHUSP and supporting development functions, with a proposal to be brought to the Exec well in advance of the next meeting.

**MT to collate views and provide proposal to the Executive Committee.**

The Executive Committee agreed that an umpire's fitness should be evaluated during every outdoor assessment and a grade should be provided by the assessor on the assessment form.

**SE to request from Webmaster and Tex Solutions**

#### **5. EHL League Committee update**

SE provided an update from the recent EHL League Committee meeting.

The League Committee recorded their thanks to NPUA for the way in which the discussions around implementation of new rules were handled.

There has been some feedback from clubs that umpires' radios have not been working during games this season. The Exec agreed that a reminder be sent to umpires in advance of next season that the use of radios at national league fixtures is mandatory. We should also run a technical workshop at the NPUA conference for members having problems pairing their radio units.

**SE to post a news item pre-season.**

**MD to arrange for workshop to be included at NPUA conference.**



## 6. Marking of match officials

DE tabled a paper on the marking of match officials by umpires at EHL fixtures and Umpire Managers at tournaments. The following actions were approved and will be taken forward to England Hockey and TAP by David Ellcock, but not funded by NPUA.

**DE to contact Tex Solutions and request that assessors, selectors and coaches are not required to grade MOs following league fixtures**

## 7. NPUA Conference

SE tabled a paper that summarised member feedback from the 2014 conference now that the conference review functionality has been added to the NPUA website. The majority of the feedback was in line with discussions held at the previous meeting of the Executive Committee. The formal feedback was reviewed by the committee and taken into account during planning for the 2015 event.

**MD to continue with Conference organisation alongside CW and ME. Particular focus is needed on arranging keynote speakers, tech developments and identifying leaders and topics for internal sessions.**

## 8. NPUA Strategy

A discussion was held around the key development areas in order to build an NPUA strategy for future years. During the initial discussion, led by MD, it was agreed that the key aim of NPUA is still to be “the most respected umpiring association in the world” and that the following areas could form the focus of NPUA strategy going forward:

- Club satisfaction and engagement
- Development of members
- Fitness of umpires
- International appointments and success
- Recruitment of umpires and umpire support personnel
- Technology developments

**MD and MT to begin formalising this strategy and present a draft version to the Executive Committee.**

## 9. Development Groups

MW tabled a paper regarding potential opportunities for development group at end of season tournaments. The Exec agreed that an event would be run on the Saturday of each playoff tournament at Lee Valley. The Executive agreed that NPUA would fund members would receive travel expenses and entry tickets for the event.

**SE to add to website, supporting communications and liaise with MW.**

**MT to liaise with EH about possible access to discounted tickets.**

## 10. Any other business

SE enquired about the possibility of acquiring some resource to video matches at the playoff finals for umpires to review after and learn from. Similar resource was provided at a tournament in Europe and proved to be very beneficial for the umpires. The Executive Committee agreed that they would look to support this option in principle given the opportunity to combine development of umpires and use of technology,

**SE to email contact and see if he is available for playoff finals.**

MD provided an update to the Exec regarding recent discipline issues involving members. These issues have highlighted that some of the NPUA discipline procedures require review.

**MD to review and recommend updates to discipline procedures, in liaison with DE and RK.**



The date of the next meeting was agreed as 18 April, venue tbc.