



Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Saturday 18th April 2015
Venue: By Conference call

Attendance: Martin Twist (MT), Mike Davidson (MD), Richard Kirk (RK), Sean Edwards (SE), David Ellcock (DE), Mark Williams (MW), Paul Box-Grainger (PBG)

Apologies: Frances Block, Mark Everard, Darryl Hoffman, Clare White, Richard Glynne-Jones

1. NPUA Conference 2015

Mike Davidson tabled a paper on current progress for the NPUA Conference in September.

A discussion was held around potential themes for the weekend, particularly management skills for umpires and communication with players. There were also discussions held around potential presenters from within NPUA, that haven't previously presented at conference.

MD to review potential topics for internal speakers and approach potential presenters.

PBG pointed out that it has been a few years since an external speaker from within the world of hockey had presented. It was agreed that it would be good to invite someone this year and some names were suggested, however there may be issues given the proximity to the Euros and other international tournaments.

PBG to approach Ged Curran.

It was agreed that to have a presenter from the playing side of the game would be beneficial, and these have always received good feedback from members in the past, however it would be important to agree the right topics. It was also suggested that it would be an interesting idea for a coach to run a pitch session with scenarios, if a pitch slot was available.

MD to investigate pitch availability for outdoor sessions.

PBG to approach Todd Williams and Phil Gooderham about presenting.

The NPUA Awards are to be discussed by email.

SE to initiate conversation in the next month.

As per the NPDP terms of reference, it is important to consider the NPUA graduation process at conference, potentially during the annual awards.

MD to consider options in the timetable.

2. Development of NPUA Selection and Development

MT tabled a paper regarding potential changes to the structure of NPUA's selection and associated committees, to place a greater focus on umpire performance and development and more evenly distribute the workload on our valued volunteers. This proposal has developed further from the initial proposal put to EHUSP and the NPUA Executive Committee last season.

There was agreement from the Executive Committee that this approach was a good idea and an improvement on the original proposal. It was noted that as some members of the Executive Committee were unable to make the call, an email thread should be started on the topic to ensure that all opinions are heard. It was also agreed that this structure should be finalised in advance of the next meeting on 14 June, where the focus should be placed on appointing members into the positions.

SE to initiate email conversation amongst Executive Committee.

3. NPUA Strategy

MD tabled a paper on NPUA strategy, which listed key areas for NPUA to focus on in the next few years to develop as an association. There was agreement from the Executive Committee that the topics identified in the paper were appropriate focus areas, and that these topics should be developed further into deliverable outcomes with timelines and people responsible for their delivery.



It was agreed that the initial next step was for the Executive Committee to provide feedback to MD on each of the areas and suggestions for deliverable outcomes.

SE to initiate email conversation amongst Executive Committee.

4. Web Strategy

MT tabled a paper on web strategy, which outlined suggestions for improvements to NPUA's overall web presence including website front end, appointments system and online development portal. The document encourages submissions from developers to deliver enhancements to the web proposition, using the funds left to NPUA by Graham Nash, and potentially further investment from NPUA.

The Executive Committee made a few small suggestions to improve the document.

SE / MT to review and amend as per suggestions from Executive Committee, including amending timescales and make it clear that there is funding on top of the donation available.

The Executive Committee agreed that the document comprehensively covers the requirements for the required web development work and confirmed that it should be circulated to potential developers. This project needs to be led by a member of the Executive Committee with support from others, although there is no one with the available capacity at this time.

MT to circulate document to relevant web developers.

SE to add document to NPUA website.

5. Any Other Business

SE provided a short update on the NPUA shop which has had some significant challenges in the last few months. The backlog of orders is gradually being worked through and all members should receive their outstanding orders by the end of May. A new Shop Administrator is required and SE is currently identifying potential candidates.

SE to identify candidates in time for next meeting on 14 June.

PBG pointed out that the link to the development portal on the homepage of the NPUA website is broken, due to the dynamic nature of the hyperlink.

SE to ask Tex Solutions to remove the link until a solution is identified.

MD explained that he is keen to make regional fitness testing available to members again this season, despite there being no NPUA tournaments in some regions this summer. MD will approach some volunteers to coordinate regional sessions, which are likely to be combined with FIH fitness testing sessions. He also explained that we have applied to FIH for an extension of the summer fitness test deadline so that international umpires can run their test at the NPUA conference.

MD to investigate and communicate to members.

Several members have fed back that the NPUA tournament radio sets are beginning to provide significant challenges and may need replacing. The Executive Committee have liaised with Tim Benford and confirmed that the sets should be replaced as soon as possible and are looking into a suitable, cost effective solution.

MT to liaise with Darryl Hoffman and Tim Benford and put a proposal to the Executive Committee.

6. Date of next meeting

As agreed previously, the next meeting will be held on 14 June, venue TBC. EHUSP will meet the day before where MT will present the Executive Committee's decision on changes to the structure of selection and supporting committees.

PBG suggested that the meeting could be held in the London area with Great Britain men playing Australia at Lee Valley on 13 June.

SE to investigate venue options and communicate.