



Hamish Jamson withdraws from Rio Olympic Games

As many of you will know, Hamish Jamson took a break from both his career and domestic umpiring last year to re-train as a commercial pilot. Having successfully completed his theoretical exams in Southampton over Easter, he is now a quarter of the way through eight months of flight school in New Zealand.

Hamish was appointed to the Olympic Games in Rio but has now taken the difficult decision to withdraw from the tournament as his flying schedule will not give him sufficient time to prepare; and not attending will allow him to complete the course and return to his family more quickly.

Anyone involved in hockey will understand how hard this decision must have been – and NPUA has nothing but respect for Hamish's integrity in choosing not to accept the appointment if he could not be fully prepared.

Hamish commented, "It is with a heavy heart that I've withdrawn from Rio. Without wanting to sound melodramatic, the feeling is a little like breaking up with a long-term girlfriend. Your head might say it's the right thing to do, but your heart can't quite accept it. "My preparation is miles away from where it should be and I'm missing Sam and the kids very much. We'll spend some time together in August in and around the flying and I'm really looking forward to that.

"I am immensely proud and privileged to have represented NPUA both at home and abroad for many years now, and even through these Games are agonisingly out of reach, I hope I can continue to do so for many years to come."

Hamish has kept FIH fully informed of the challenges and possible implications of being based in New Zealand, and has managed the situation with his customary consideration for all concerned. Whilst it is sad that England will now have no representative in Rio, Hamish has been a shining light for NPUA and English umpiring, and we would like to wish him all the best in completing his flight training as soon as possible.

Martin Twist, Chairman NPUA