



NPUA AGM, Saturday 1 September 2012 At Loughborough University

1. Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising from previous AGM.

Minutes were proposed by David Ellcock and seconded by Ann Hopkins, voted for unanimously.

2. Apologies were received from several members, including John Gawley MBE, Carol Unwin, Suzanne Howard, Tony Keheller, Jo Pennycook and Nick Padget.

3. Constitution changes

There were a number of constitutional changes presented, to reflect recent changes at EHB and on the Executive Committee. The proposed changes were discussed individually or taken in groups where appropriate.

Item 2

- “The Association shall report to the England Hockey Board (EHB).”
- Removing “via the EHB Officiating and Rules Committee” which is no longer in existence and inserting the word “the” in the first sentence.

Proposed by Dawn Henning and seconded by Martin Stott, voted for unanimously.

Item 6

- Remove the Expenses Administrator from the list of Officers.
- It is felt by the Executive Committee that the Expenses Administrator should no longer be an Officer role and should report to the Treasurer directly.

Proposed by Stephen Cox, seconded by Karen Evans, voted for unanimously

A question from the floor was taken, regarding why Item 7.1 (the existence of a coaching development manager role) had not been proposed to be removed, by Paul Box-Grainger. Val Sassall clarified that although this role is not currently occupied, in may be in future so the Item was being retained to offer future flexibility.

Item 6

- Add Deputy chairman to the list of Officers
- It is felt by the Executive Committee that the addition of a Deputy Chairman would greatly assist the Chairman with the overseeing of the Association.

There was a second question from the floor as to why a vote on a Deputy Chair was not taking place at this AGM. Val Sassall clarified that this was not possible as we had to confirm if the constitutional change was first going to be accepted by the membership. Nominations will be taken from existing Executive Committee members, with a view that the Deputy will become a future chairman (although this will not be a prerequisite to becoming the Chairman). At the time of voting in this change, the Deputy Chairman post will be vacant, however the Exec have the right to fill any position before the next AGM.



Proposed by Terry Lees and seconded by Sarah Chapman, voted for unanimously.

New 8.1.4

If the removal of the Expenses Administrator is approved at the AGM then the following changes would need to be made:

- A new 8.1.4 being “appoint the Expenses Administrator who is responsible to the Treasurer”
- Renumber old items 8.1.4 as 8.1.5

Proposed by Andy Higgins and seconded by Terry Lees, voted for unanimously.

Renumbering of the following items was agreed.

- 8.1.5 and sub paragraphs accordingly as 8.1.6
- 8.1.6 as 8.1.7
- 8.1.7 and sub paragraph accordingly as 8.1.8
- 8.1.8 as 8.1.9
- 8.1.9 as 8.1.10
- 8.1.10 as 8.1.11 and
- 8.1.11 as 8.1.12

Item 13

- Delete the Chairman of the England Hockey Board Officiating and Rules Committee.

Item 18.2

- Delete “or to the Officiating and Rules Committee for its disposal.”

Proposed by Raj Khanna and seconded by Margaret McLoughlin, voted for unanimously

4. Officers Report

Val Sassall gave a summary of her season review which was provided earlier on in the Conference programme.

Richard Kirk delivered the Financial Report. Key points included:

- Income maintained at similar levels to previous years
- Donations from members were up to £1,129 – thank you to all those who contributed, it is much appreciated.
- Expenditure has been reviewed in these difficult times and the largest increase in costs relates to the provision of Conference last year which was anticipated.
- A surplus has been achieved again this year through careful management and there are plans to use some of this next year. Executive Committee will be considering the best way to use this surplus for the benefit of the members.
- Debtors are consistent. The Olympic tickets made available to the members were paid for in advance by the Association at a cost of £15,060 and I am pleased to report that all tickets were subsequently sold and we broke even on these.
- Creditors consistent and relate to the usual small claims.



- Deferred Income represents monies saved by members for Conference and Subscriptions in 2012/13. Conference was £10,094 and subscriptions £2,530 and this year we had £2,454 received for early Olympic ticket sales.
- Once again thank you – it all helps manage the cashflow

It was commented that development groups did not occur last year. Nearly £3,800 is allocated. We purchased radios nearly three years ago, these incur a cost to maintain and come out of development group budget. There is also a sizable development group cost to enable umpires and coaches to attend the Los Reyes tournament, in Spain. The EHB allocation provides some budget for this opportunity, but we added additional funds to enable coaches to attend this year.

A question from Margaret McLoughlin questioned the use of radios and suggested they were not available to everyone, despite all members contributing towards the development pot. Richard Kirk clarified that they are made available to many members and shared around the Association. Although Premier umpires are allocated them for the outdoor season, they are made available during the indoor and for end of season tournaments, but obviously you have to be appointed.

Stephen Cox asked if we made a loss on BUCS appointments in comparison to last year. Richard Kirk responded that there were less BUCS events this year so we would have only broken even if the full programme had been delivered by BUCS.

Terry Lees questioned if the Olympic tickets were factored in to these accounts. Richard Kirk clarified that they were not as the date of the accounts is only up to June and not July when the finances for the tickets were captured, therefore they will appear in full in next year's accounts.

Paul Box-Grainger questioned if nearly £25,000 is appropriate for an Association with a transient membership? He asked what are the plans for this reserve and what is an acceptable level in the Treasurer's opinion? Richard Kirk responded that a responsible level of reserve is building to the level to equate to our turnover for a year, but gradually, to ensure we could function for a year if all funding stopped. However, it is unlikely we will ever be able to reach such a level. Therefore, we need to ensure our reserves are sufficient so that we can function. Next year will be an expensive year, with the possibility of a coaching conference, new shirts, radios and development groups. A sensible level of reserves will be maintained but it is not our purpose "to make money" out of our members. The past two years we have not spent as much on development groups as previous years, but this will be resolved in this next season.

Proposed by Martin Twist, seconded by Dawn Henning and voted for unanimously.

5. Election of Officers

The election of the Officers included:

- Chair: Val Sassall
 - Proposed by Anne Hopkins, seconded by David Savage, voted for unanimous
- Secretary: Hannah Sanders and Treasurer: Richard Kirk



- Proposed by Lee Barron, seconded by Rob Jenkins, voted for unanimously

6. Election of Executive Committee

- Sarah Chapman
- Lili James
- Karen Evans
- Sean Edwards
- Annika Midwinter
- Martin Twist

Proposed by Laura Geeson, seconded by Adam Wheeler, voted unanimously.

It was confirmed that although Tim Benford will no longer be a member of the Executive Committee he will continue working with the Exec manage technology and particularly the radios. His contribution to the Association was noted and with much appreciation and thanks.

It was also the expressed wish of the Association to record a note of thanks to Richard Wood, who was an original officer of the Association and has done a fantastic job for the Association over many years. Similar to Tim, although he will no longer be a member of the Executive, we are pleased to confirm he will continue to work closely with the Executive as the Expenses Administrator.

7. Proposed Subscriptions

Richard Kirk gave an overview of the proposed subscriptions. He clarified that the Association had not experienced an increase in subscriptions since 2005, when it increased from £30 to £120 in one go. It is not manageable for members to experience a massive jump, but costs are increasing (such as hosting a two day annual conference), therefore the Executive proposed a £5 increase to the cost of full membership.

Subscriptions as tabled:

Honorary Vice President	0.00
Full Member – Umpire	125.00
Full Member - Non Umpire	125.00
Young Member	32.50
Indoor Only Member	54.00
Visiting Umpires	0.00
Candidate	0.00
Coach Candidate	125.00
Associate Members	5.00
Young Umpire	5.00
Reserve Umpires	0.00

Questions:

- Andy Burnette asked why an increase was required if the Association is holding surpluses? Richard Kirk responded that a small increase this year will cover costs we know that will rise next year. And that the proposed increase



would only raise an additional £400, but this would help smooth the impact of the rising costs.

- Dawn Bonner asked how much it would cost to attend individual coaching events. Hannah Sanders clarified that it is not possible to answer this for individual events since the cost for those possible events has not been confirmed, so we do not know at this stage if it will cost anything for individuals.
- Jane Nockolds asked why there is a cost of £125 for a coach candidate compared to umpire candidates. It was clarified that there is a cost in assessing and developing coaches and this is not the same for umpires. Coach candidates get greater support and development than an umpire candidate. Martin Twist also added that coach candidates get a number of watchings, assessing and shadowing opportunities – so more cost is invested in them. Whereas umpire candidates often have a one off watching.
- John Litchfield also mentioned that the majority of coach candidates, recently, have already been members. Nominations by regions often do not happen. EHB also charge candidates for a Level 3 coach candidacy. But if coach candidates are already NPUA member, for example as an umpire, then they do not pay a subscription twice.
- Rob Jenkins asked why people pay more if they have not had any development opportunities? And if we reject the proposal can we make a counter proposal to keep subscriptions at the same level?
- Val Sassall clarified that a counter proposal must come before the vote on the Exec proposal.
- Sarah Chapman asked if the intention was to make incremental increases. Richard Kirk responded, that this is not the case.
- Colin Barthorpe suggested that it seems prudent to increase subscriptions gradually, than a massive increase, as in 2005. This seems common sense and sensible planning.

The floor was asked if they wanted to make a counter proposal.

Rob Jenkins proposed a counter proposal that the subscriptions remain the same as 2011/12. Seconded by Andy Burnette.

- In favour – ten.
- Against – majority
- Abstentions – one

Vote on Executive proposal. Proposed by the Executive Committee, seconded by David Ellcock.

- In favour – majority
- Against – seven
- Abstentions – three

8. AOB

None submitted by the deadline

Val Sassall then took questions from the floor:

- Barry Smith asked why the fitness testing regulations changed for this season.



- VS responded, that it became apparent our fitness test was different to FIH. The Men's game is faster, so umpires had to get a higher score to be eligible to umpire. But this is not how the fitness test works. For example Frances Block has to run to level 9; scientifically, for Andrew Kennedy to run the same VO2 Max would be level 14. Now, with the change, to make the VO2 Max the same Frances Block only has to run to level 8 and Andrew Kennedy to level 9. So they are tested the same.
- Terry Lees asked if the age thresholds would be changed for those above 40?
- Val Sassall, informed the Association that it is performance based, not age so there is a minimum threshold for each gender. Karen Evans added that a drop in age bracket of 10 years equals around half a seconds difference. All have to reach a basic level of 6.5 for women and 7.5 for men regardless of age.

NPUA AGM closed at 18.08.