

Minutes of 2020 NPUA AGM – 23rd September
Held virtually over Zoom

Meeting Open - 19:01 with 74 (full) members in attendance

- **Apologies**
 - Apologies for non-attendance were received in advance from:
 - **Laura Geeson**
 - **Nick Lockhart**
 - **Conor Carmody**
 - **Gary Stent**
 - **Paul Sexby**
 - **Sarah Chapman**
 - **Robert Brownbridge**
 - **Kevan Tate**
 - **Oliver Jones**
 - **Nikki Butcher**
 - **Matthew Pilgrim**
 - **Jonathan Gillespie**
 - **Colin Anderson**
 - **Lee McEvoy**
 - **Tom Cox**
 - **Amar Chudasama**
 - **Iain Noon**
 - **David Savage**
 - **Jo Pennycook**
 - **Colin Barthorpe**
 - **Chris Peart**
 - **Karen Fynn**
 - **Stephen Cox**
- **Minutes of the 2019 AGM**
 - The minutes were proposed by Bob Jordan as an accurate record of proceedings, and were seconded by AJ Small.
 - The minutes were accepted unanimously as an accurate record of proceedings.

- **Chairman's Report**

- “Last year presented us with some challenges, but also a lot of positives.
- We had several promotions up Panels for both domestic and international umpires as well as umpire managers, so congratulations to everyone promoted.
- As you are all aware we had our conference at the beginning of September and while this was held virtually, I felt it was an extremely worthwhile event, with lots of learning points as well as interaction between the members, although I am sure like me you hope we can get a face to face event back next year, I would also like to congratulate the panel winners as well as the overall umpire of the year and coach of the year, Gill Lord and Dawn Bonner.
- The outdoor league season was unfortunately curtailed, although only by one week, though we did also have the postponement of the cup competitions and play offs.
- Thank you to everyone who made themselves available for the re-arranged cup competitions held in Nottingham.
- We have also had a number of challenges with OMS and I am extremely grateful to Liz, Colin and Chris who have given up a lot of time in order to get all the appointments done for last year, this year we are also working closer with the regions to ensure there are no gaps in appointments.
- Hopefully, you have all got your new radios now, they are smaller than the previous ones so I am hoping that they are more robust, but please take care of them as these are not a cheap purchase for the association and I hope they are around for many seasons. The new shirts will hopefully be out next week, so you will have 3 shirts to choose from each week.
- This brings us on to this season, there was a full Premier programme last week and while there were a couple of observations it went pretty smoothly, we as umpire and officials are not the Covid police this is up to the clubs to deal with, if you have concerns over anything you experience please contact either your panel lead or a member of the exec and we can hopefully deal with any issues.
- There was an e-mail out to you all earlier today. Please read it carefully and stay safe.”
- The above report was proposed by Mark Everard and seconded by Dr Dan Stewart.
- It was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

- **Association Accounts**

- Association income was up by £10k, part of which was due to increased subscriptions of £2k as we have an additional 26 members paying a full subscription.
- The income included in the accounts is £75 per full member. This is because we carried forward £50 per full member as is normal policy.
- Sales of kit reduced substantially by £5k as we stopped providing the shop facility early in the year and members paid direct to the supplier. As a result the costs of sale were also reduced and represent the cost of kit supplied to new members and milestone shirts as well as the cost of the kit associated with the income received.
- We made a surplus on the BUCS appointments this year, as what was originally projected to be the costs of supporting that league turned out to be less than anticipated. Thank you to the umpires who were available to undertake these appointments as it generated a surplus of £6k to the members funds which we have been able to reinvest in the new radios for members.
- Although conference income is up, the conference costs for 2019 were also significantly increased which resulted in a loss of £3K, compared to a break even in 2019 as a result of a generous benefactor underwriting the 2018 conference costs.
- Overall, we retained a surplus this year of £921.
- Looking at the balance sheet we carried a similar level of funds within the bank and at the year-end there were lower debtors as we were able to use the COVID lockdown in order to tidy up the Association's financial position earlier than normal.
- The Creditors in the accounts are largely made up of the cost of the radios that we have recently sent to all members.
- The deferred income is significantly down due to not being able to collect subscriptions in advance and the conference fees were not collected in advance this year. They represent the value of members subscriptions that have been held back for future use in this year.
- The accounts were proposed by Richard Kirk and seconded by Simon Gillett
- They were accepted by the meeting, with 56 votes for and 3 abstentions

- **Association Subscriptions**

- Proposed subscriptions for the coming season are as per the information in the accompanying PPT and members should be reminded that the opportunity exists, if they are experiencing financial difficulties, to contact the Treasurer directly to discuss their situation so that an amicable solution can be found. Any such solution will remain confidential to the parties involved.
- As regards the C panel, the subscription remains the same as for an umpire on any of the other panels as they are treated as a full member of the Association like all others.
- However, the Association already has a policy that if a member undertakes very few appointments, yet has been regularly available, we may reduce the subscription to the level of any potential travel claims.
- Clearly, the indoor-only membership will not be collected if the indoor season is not possible, given the current situation with the COVID regulations and how they relate to indoor sports.
- If the outdoor season is curtailed then a prorated membership level may be determined and applied accordingly, at the discretion of the Executive (as elected by the membership).
- The subscription charges were proposed by Richard Kirk, and seconded by Rajiv Khanna
- They were accepted by the meeting with 57 votes for, 1 vote against and 5 abstentions.

- **Election of Officers**
 - Mark Everard, Sean Edwards, Richard Kirk and David Monger are all happy to continue in their current roles (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively):
 - **Mark Everard**
 - Proposer = Lee Barron
 - Seconder = Rob Brownbridge
 - **Sean Edwards**
 - Proposer = Hannah Harrison
 - Seconder = Lee Barron
 - **Richard Kirk**
 - Proposer = Dawn Bonner
 - Seconder = Jaime Cox
 - **David Monger**
 - Proposer = Julian Warburton
 - Seconder = Andy Higgins
 - The re-nomination of Mark as the Association Chairman was accepted by the meeting, with 62 votes for and 1 abstention.
 - The nominations of the remaining three officers were accepted by the meeting (as a block), and were duly elected to the noted roles, with 61 votes for (and no objections or abstentions)
 - Rebecca Woodcock, Karen Fynn, AJ Small, Jonathan Hull, Ed Westbrook, Charles Hallows, and Rachel Williams are all prepared to continue in their non-officer roles.
 - The nominations of all seven non-officers was accepted by the meeting (as a block), and all were duly elected to the Executive, with 62 votes for and 1 abstention.

- **AoB**
 - There were several proposed changes to the association's constitution that are detailed in the accompanying PPT:
 - Wording update to 8.1.5 – in order to reflect the changes to the structure of the selection committees
 - This change was proposed by Sean Edwards and seconded by Tim Martin
 - The change was accepted by the meeting, with 61 votes for (and no objections or abstentions)
 - Amendment of 17.2.1 to extend deadline for receipt of a complaint from 7 to 14 days (to bring NPUA into line with similar EH deadlines)
 - Addition of 17.2.2 (resulting in renumbering of 17.2.3 to 17.2.4 and 17.2.4 to 17.2.5)
 - addition of clause to provide the Association Chairman with the discretion to accept complaints if received after 14 days as not everyone may be able to lodge the complaint within the stated deadline
 - Charles Hallows proposed an amendment that all complaints should be raised within 6 months of the behaviour in question. The amendment was seconded by Jackie Gibbs
 - The amendment was not successful, with 23 votes for, 36 votes against and 5 abstentions
 - The original change was proposed by Sean Edwards and seconded by Simon Gillett
 - The change was accepted by the meeting, with 57 votes for, 6 votes against and 3 abstentions

- Addition of 17.3.2 (resulting in renumbering of 17.3.3 to 17.3.4) and addition of 17.4.3 (resulting in renumbering of 17.4.3 to 17.4.4, 17.4.4 to 17.4.5 and 17.4.5 to 17.4.6) - addition of clauses to provide the Association Chairman with the ability to appoint a suitable disciplinary/appeals committee in the event that it is not possible to do so using only members of the Exec committee due to their potential involvement/witnessing of the incident under review
 - Paul Grainger proposed that an explicit provision be made to make clear that all hearings, on any association subjects, may be held virtually and not always in-person.
 - As this would be an addition to the constitution it was not accepted into the AGM, as notice had not been given, but will be looked alongside any other constitutional changes that might be brought forward for the 2021 AGM.
 - As part of that review process, how the term “Chairman” is referred to in the Constitution will also be looked at.
 - The originally proposed change was proposed by Sean Edwards and seconded by Rebecca Woodcock
 - The change was accepted by the meeting, with 61 votes for, 1 vote against and 3 abstentions
- What consideration has been given to supply indoor, and possibly those on regional reserve panels, free, or at least discounted given the lower subscription fee for indoor umpires, shirts?
 - Going forward, the Association will look to provide free shirts to both indoor and outdoor umpires, though not to those on the regional reserve panels. Please note that we may review the indoor-only subscription next year with these changes in mind, but didn't feel this year was the right time with members' on-going financial challenges and no guarantee of an indoor season this year
- What consideration has been given to, and how viable is it, for tiered membership fees considering current circumstances?
 - Consideration has been given to this, but at present there is no clear path to understand how a tiered membership fee might work in terms of ensuring we meet the running costs of the organisations. With that said, the topic will continue to be explored
- Is there a commitment to organise a virtual coaches/assessors conference for this season and who will lead that organising team from the coaching/assessor community? Co-lead perhaps by a member of the Executive
 - Yes, there is a commitment to have a specific development event for coaches/assessors, subject to financial considerations. The question of who might lead that will be discussed at the next Exec meeting
- Same for an Indoor focussed development event, whether there is an indoor league or not
 - Not at this time, as there is already too much else underway at present that will consume time and costs, as well as the likelihood that there will be no domestic indoor season this year. However, this will be looked at further in 2021
- Please can you clarify roles of Exec (non-portfolio) team to understand what initiatives they are leading on behalf of the Exec so we can better understand priorities and focus areas for the NPUA overall
 - Rebecca Woodcock, Karen Fynn and AJ Small - Conference organising sub-committee
 - Jonathan Hull - Kit and Fitness Coordinator (with help from AJ and David Monger to administer the self-tests for fitness)
 - Ed Westbrook - NPUA App
 - Charles Hallows – Radios
 - Rachel Williams - Club Liaison
 - Outside of the Executive - Matt Harrison, as the association's webmaster, is focused on OMS, along with David Monger as the representative of the Executive
- What is proposed this season regarding the subs for those C panel umpires who will not do a full season?
 - This was answered in the “Association Accounts” section

- Is there any change being proposed this season for the NPUA mileage rate?
 - The mileage rate is determined by EH and no increase is proposed for the coming season. Money would need to be generated by EH to fund any increase and in these difficult times that is not high on anybody's agenda at present.
- Given the on-going struggles with using OMS, and the level of functionality it provides, is any consideration being given to an alternative system?
 - Yes, discussions are on-going to determine if there might be an alternative solution that fully meets the needs of NPUA. However, in the meantime, all members are strongly encouraged to download the "whostheref" app from the Apple and Google app stores

Closed 20:32