



Minutes of the NPUA Exec Meeting Held on 13th October 2021 – via Zoom

In Attendance - Mark Everard (ME), Richard Kirk (RK), Sean Edwards (SE), Rebecca Woodcock (RW), Charles Hallows (CH), A J Small (AJ), Julian Warburton (JW), David Ellcock (DE), and Rachel Williams (RWi).

Apologies - Ed Westbrook (EW) and Jonathan Hull (JH)

Meeting Open - 19:30

Thanks to David Monger and Karen Fynn for their previous service to the Exec.

1. **Introduction to new members of the Exec**, explanation of the role of the exec and what we do – remember that all ideas are welcome to the table regardless of role. Input from RK around funding.
 - a. We have two distinct cost centres being NPUA (Members) Funds) and England Hockey where we are custodians of money allocated to the NPUA for them to manage and maintain within some very clear boundaries.
 - i. NPUA Funds - accounts that the members approve every season at our AGM
 - ii. England Hockey - monies held on account for England Hockey (significantly the largest part). There are no VAT implications as we are classed for this purpose as a division of EH.
 - iii. International and Performance Appointments - These are invoiced periodically usually at the same time as the development budget requests and to enable this funding to be received all matches need to be detailed and costs for each appointment are then scrutinised by EH to see if they are reasonable.
 - iv. Development budget – This is an area applied for each year and we are required to detail how our budget is spent and includes costs incurred by our assessors and coaches travelling to games, training costs of national coaches, development events.
2. **Review previous general actions (further, specific, action items are also contained within later agenda items):**
 - a. **Umpire Recruitment Campaign** - The funding for any action has been removed. DE spoken with Dieter Hill emailed all NAG squads to see if they had any interest in umpiring. At this stage there has been no uptake.
 - b. **Sponsorship Pack** - Update on sponsorship from EW following the mass send:
 - Reminder has been sent to the membership but no substantial leads.
 - “One member has some forwards with the offer of a £250 sponsorship - I have been in touch with a 'holding' message but hasn't yet been progressed as it is a single donation offer.
 - The corporate lead previously mentioned which requires us to line up with their 'cycle' which will mean January.
 - EW would welcome and appreciate any help from other members of the exec to reach out to members individually who they feel may be in a position to support/ ask employers etc to reach a wider audience.”
 - [ACTION] SE to post on social media and EW to re-send to members due to new memberships and in case situations have changed
 - c. **NPUA App** – SE has sent the files to EW and the conference videos have been downloaded but due to their significant size will need to be reformatted prior to uploading to the app.
 - i. [ACTION] - EW will be reformatting the videos and aims to have completed this by next week.
 - iv. **Indoor 'conference'** - Given the success of the on-line development events, NPUA will commit to a pre-indoor season development event for members (both umpires and umpire managers). While it shouldn't require too much in terms of time or finance it would add a lot of residual value in terms of a publicity push for indoor umpires and also be a good event for indoor members and a refresher of the rules prior to the indoor season. This is being considered for the 14/15th December (2.5 hour session one evening)



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- [ACTION] - SE to discuss with touch base with Simon Gill in relation to relevant content, and speak with Lee Barron, Rachel Williams, Frances Block and Louise Knipe based on their indoor experience to do some short sessions for content.
- v. **20th anniversary dinner** - NPUA is 20 in 2023 (5th September), and Box has volunteered to organise an anniversary dinner to celebrate the event (he's also producing a "NPUA through the years" film as a personal project, funded by himself). NPUA will take Box up on his offer, but will ensure that all key decisions (e.g. dates, finances, venue etc) are approved/made by Exec.
 - [ACTION] - ME/SE to continue liaison with Box and agree the way forward.
 - [ACTION] – SE to obtain a distribution list for all current members and some previous members from the past at least 10 years, and establish the best way forward to obtain expressions of interest in order to manage numbers for venues etc.
 - [ACTION] – SE to sample a date for current members and give three options for consensus about timing of the event

3. Proposed Governance in Officiating

- a. Having spoken with Ecclesiastical, this is the last year (up to May) they will be doing insurance in the way they currently offer so the only available option is to maintain Blue Fin via EH. There is discussion that the Blue Fin policy only covers umpiring in England and not Worldwide like the Ecclesiastical policy.
 - i. [ACTION] – SW to request new insurance policy from OWG to ensure at least all National League games are covered (ie Cardiff).
 - ii. Firm decision on insurance will need to be made by December for May once the current policy is up, with consideration to international umpiring.

4. Finance

- a. Lots of BUCS games are being moved to 7.30-8pm which is making it very difficult to appoint games to. The agreement is that we have said we will provide umpires where we can. They have the invoice for this, pending agreement.
 - i. [ACTION] - ME to chase BUCS on the pending agreement – to be completed by the end of the week. thank those members that have supported the Association this year with donations on 19th August 2021.

5. 2021 Conference

- a. The conference was well received by the members. Some feedback to breakout for umpire coaches in order to aid their contribution to the membership over the year. Big thanks to those involved with the organisation and presentation of our final virtual conference.
- b. [Delayed ACTION] – RW to send out request for ideas as a conference call to action - are you interested in getting involved, ideas and contributions to the wider membership. Many jobs/roles can be delegated closer to the time.

6. 2021-22 Fitness Testing

- a. At the conclusion of the fitness test window, 7 candidates from NPDP to complete the fitness testing, 2 prem to C panel umpires are having a break and there are 9-10 injured umpires. Big thanks to AJ for managing, chasing reminding and updating everyone. Six organised tests (1 x North, 2 x Midlands, 2 x South and 1 x East) were completed
 - i. Indoor umpires fitness window is moved to 17th November
 - ii. [ACTION] AJ to send a message to the indoor umpires reminding them of their fitness window and the expectations
- b. International umpire fitness testing – Consideration given to speed gates for FIH fitness testing standards and NPUA fitness testing credibility.



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- i. [ACTION] RW to tentatively enquire at Loughbrough / EH / UofB/ Bath/ Brunel / Oxford Brookes and consider a proposal for funding them - £470 for a set that could be transferred and used by all for longevity.
 - ii. [ACTION] AJ to send a message to the international umpires to remind them all of the process and that their fitness tests are due in November.
 - iii. [ACTION] AJ to change fitness policy based on international policy
- c. Strava application and review
 - i. Consideration given to dismiss the use of Strava for fitness testing now COVID regulations allow in person fitness testing. At this stage there is no evidence it doesn't work and potentially saves members a significant amount of time and money. NPUA reserve the right to request an in person (selector) test, so we will maintain it's use.

7. AoB

- a. Still having teething issues with GMS, however we are advised that within the next 10 days we will have functionality the same as we had at the end of last season. We are unable to send emails with attachments on GMS at present but will continue publishing meeting minutes on the NPUA website.
 - i. [ACTION] DE to pick up with Jo/Annie advising that the view of NPUA is that MOs should be inputting the data for cards and injuries not the umpires and request that those be removed from umpires requirements on GMS (with understanding that it is not priority at this stage)
- b. Indoor season begins in December with the Schools championships requiring umpires Thursday through to Sunday and National league will be in January with the calendar on the EH website.
- c. Request for consideration to be given to the mileage rate due to current petrol situation – this should be a request to EH.
- d. OPC request to review marking systems
 - i. [ACTION] - DE to send an email relating to marking system which is to be shared with the membership.
- e. ME spoke about roles within the association. CH is now lead on all things Sponsorship, JW is the new Club Liason.
 - i. [ACTION] RWi to pass on email details to JW for the new role.
 - ii. [ACTION] RWi to request details from David Monger for secretary email details
 - iii. [ACTION] CH and JW to contact EW relating to sponsorship considering new avenues to pursue in relation to sponsorship.
 - iv. [ACTION] JW to send email to all clubs reminding them of their responsibilities – if there are any issues to let him know so he can pass it to the relevant selector.
 - v. [ACTION] DE to draft memo relating to club responsibilities
- f. Specialist Sports Contract allows cashback to spent from purchases. We currently have £3400. Can that be used for milestone shirts or can we ensure that we are spending that in a productive way
 - i. [ACTION] ME to check with JH in relation to when the next shirt colour runs out and we will be required to begin a new cycle of shirts.
- g. Radio stock – CH has 3 umpire radios and 1 coach radio left. New members once they've joined should contact CH should they not have one, but will likely bring one from the region.
 - i. [ACTION] CH to speak with Liz Pelling in her OPC capacity to find out who is not umpiring for a reasonable amount of time to collect radios
- h. Website update
 - i. [ACTION] SE to update to panels on website and upload minutes
- i. HUDL – All premier umpires should have access to the Hudl website and app to view their games.



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- i. [RW to circulate an update to women's WhatsApp group and request those without access contact ME]

8. Next Meetings

- a. Next face to face meeting will be in December. Viable dates are 4th 11th 18th
 - i. [ACTION] - SE to send out doodle/google form for decision around date
- b. Next meeting date 9th November 19.00
 - i. [ACTION] - SE to send out Zoom link closer to the time.

Meeting Close - 21:16