



## Minutes of the EHUOPC Meeting Held on 21, Sept, 2023

### Attendees:

Liz Pelling (Chairman Elite ) (LP), Lee Barron (Chairman Conference) (LB), Chris Blogg (CB) Dawn Bonner (DB), Sean Edwards (NPUA Chair), Debbie Garner (DG) Simon Gillett (SG), Ann Hopkins (AH), Hamish Jamson (HJ), Mark Jarvis (MJ), Rob Jenkins (RJ), Louise Knipe (LK), Chris Peart (CP), Gary Stent (GS).

The Meetings opened at 19:00 on Wednesday, Sept 21, via Zoom conferencing

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Gary Stent (GS)

### 2. Minutes of 16 May, 2023

No matters arising not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

### 3. New Season updates from NPUA Exec/EHUSSC

EHUOPC welcomed Sean to his first meeting as Chair of NPUA.

Some committee updates:

Nku Davis stood down as men's C Panel lead, a role he held for the last two seasons. EHUOPC expressed its thanks to Nku. Nku will continue to support NPUA as an umpire, assessor and coach.

In the interim until a new C panel lead is found, LB will look after the men's C panel. **ACTION: SE/Exec seeking a candidate**

It was noted that David Ellcock had retired from his role as Chair of Selectors and the EHUSSC. The EHUOPC expressed its thanks to David for his contributions to the association in that role. David will continue to support he NPUA in his role as an assessor, and will stay on NPUA Exec.

Many thanks were expressed to Paul Box-Grainger for taking care of the International group for many years. Special thanks to Box for his work on the Five ring puzzle – a strategy for Olympic success. EHUOPC wanted to especially note that umpires Hannah Harrison, Rachel Williams and Dan Barstow alongside Umpires' manager, Margaret Hunnaball have all been appointed to the 2024 Olympic games in Paris – huge congratulations!

Selection strategy committee will be joined by LB as chair of conference panels, plus HJ will be taking over as International Co-ordinator for the men's panels and Louise Knipe for the International women's panels. There will be no chair of selection strategy – each member will take turns to chair a meeting.

Going forward, Matt Harrison together with Mark Jarvis will make Umpire Management appointments that will be ratified by EHUSSC.

EHUSSC full membership:

Sean Edwards, NPUA Chair

Hamish Jamson, Men's International co-ordinator

Louise Knipe, Women's International Co-ordinator

Liz Pelling, Elite Panel chair

Lee Barron, Conference Panel chair

Simon Gillett, Indoor OPC chair

Matt Harrison, Umpire Support and special projects



## Minutes of the EHUOPC Meeting Held on 21, Sept, 2023

Key Characteristics for Umpiring Support have been drafted by Matt Harrison for discussion at next EHUSSC meeting. **ACTION: SE/LP to arrange first meeting**

### International updates:

Sean Edwards promoted to the Pro league Panel  
Harry Collinson to the International Elite Panel  
Clare Barwood (WAL) to the Advancement Panel

Post meeting note:

Zoë Hall and Gemma Jones have both been awarded their outdoor International Badge

#### 4. GMS Update

It was noted that the start of season hand over was smoother than past two seasons.

Updates to coaching reports to match Key Characteristics still desired. All areas need to adapt before GMS update can be implemented. **ACTION LP to continue discussions with webmaster (Matt Harrison) and report to OPC**

A long list of outstanding wishes for improvements to GMS still exists. OPC would like an idea of when or if, some of these would be implemented. Some more than two years olds. **ACTION: LP /SE Matt Harrison for report back to OPC**

#### 5. Coaching & Assessing Update

MJ has received applications for 5 x new assessor candidates, 1x coach candidate application. **ACTION: Registration forms to come back from candidates , then MJ will evaluate.**

**ACTION: MJ to include SG in coaching & assessment appointments for NPDP/Candidate awareness**

It was agreed that Support lists need be updated to reflect active status in roles. It could mean a reserve panel for support is created in line with umpiring active status **ACTION: Review at next EHUSSC**

### Coaching & assessing frequency.

There are over 200 umpire members of NPUA and approx.. 15 active support personnel to help with development, as such it is likely that umpires may only receive one watching per season. NPDP candidates, star panels and those identified by panel leads based on performance are prioritised for watching. Some umpires, due to proximity or if umpiring with a candidate or starred umpire, may as a consequence, receive more watchings. Where possible, these will be spread around the membership. Continuity coaching should be viewed more as a mentorship and umpires are encouraged to use a variety of support personnel or other active umpires to help with their own PDP which may not always be on an actual match. **ACTION: Umpires should speak to their panel lead who can advise on performance development. Support personnel wishing to develop should speak to MJ**

#### 6. Appointments Update – RJ/CP/CB/LP/LB

RJ – all men's Prem have switched to Saturday and a 6pm start which is tough for appointing week-in-week out. Women's prem have also moved later with dual clubs. Whilst better for the clubs re atmosphere and spectators, it is hard for some umpires who travel alone, with very late homeward journeys. Agreed to monitor during the season and look for opportunities amongst the appointments and the ability to do double support appointments.



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## Minutes of the EHUOPC Meeting Held on 21, Sept, 2023

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CB – A request to remind umpires to keep availability up to date to avoid changes as soon as published

CP – Moving of games to Saturday affecting availability in the women's programme. Lots of Area reserves needed and some areas struggling to find suitable umpires, if any. **ACTION: Mens panel leads to ask umpires if willing to officiate on both days of the weekend, where men's conference on a Sunday**

### 7. Panel discussion (all):

As a reminder to members, EHUOPC noted that when measuring performance for panel promotions, marks from prior seasons also form part of the overall consideration. The exception to this is for A star, where guidance requires that two marks of 9 or 10 on Prem games is needed for promotion are usually 'within' a season; and membership on both A star and B star panels is over a maximum of two full seasons.

Movement between panels - it was acknowledged that there needs to be more fluidity to enable progression for those performing well, and those who do not, especially on the star panels. The marking system has clarity around the bands required, and should be referred to by umpires, as well as assessors regularly.

A reminder to members that active Premier or A star panel, on the panel at the Christmas break, need to have completed a second fitness test to Premier level, one of which needs to be in person. Those without two fitness tests by the restart of the league post indoor will not be appointed to Premier League matches

Exceptions to the above notes are in the gift of EHUOPC.

### **Taking a Break from Umpiring (Extract from the 2023/24 Fitness test policy)**

Annual assessment is all about maintaining standards for elite national level umpiring. If an umpire takes a break it is essential to NPUA that when they return to umpiring they are fit to do so.

If a member has, for whatever reason, taken a break from umpiring (lasting longer than the current season) they will need to demonstrate their fitness and be re-assessed when they resume umpiring.

It should not be automatically assumed that the member would return to the panel they were on at the start of the absence, particularly if that absence was fitness related.

Those members who are inactive due to injury or a failed fitness test will continue to fall under the responsibility of their original panel lead, this will continue until such time as they return to umpiring or fall into the long-term break described below.

For clarity, and subject to the discretion of the Performance Committee to take into account individual circumstances, the following will apply:

- Short-term break (within the current season having passed a fitness test at the start of the season) - return to existing panel, no assessment required (although a fitness test may be required at the discretion of the panel lead)
- Medium-term break (within the current season plus the following season) - fitness test required, then assessed and returned to the C panel (outdoor) or B panel (indoor), with Indoor / Outdoor Performance Committee discretion to reinstate at any panel following the initial assessment. Such a decision can be agreed by the relevant Performance Committee off-cycle from their formal meeting schedule



## Minutes of the EHUOPC Meeting Held on 21, Sept, 2023

- Long-term break (greater than the current season plus the following season) - umpire should undertake games in their Area, pass the NPUA fitness test for a candidate, and then be re-nominated by their Area as a candidate

### Panel updates:

All panel leads provided comprehensive updates to panels ahead of the season starting.

Umpires who have not umpired in the NPUA league programme for 12 months will be moved to the reserve panel. Return to 'old' panel possible subject to performance, with fitness test for the panel and following assessment on an appropriate game.

Reserve umpires who have not umpired for 18 months will be removed from NPUA panels. Return to NPUA umpiring is possible with Area nominations.

Umpires without appropriate fitness tests for panels will be moved to appropriate panel for test or to reserves. Return to 'old' panel is possible if the correct level test is achieved with an appropriate mark for the panel.

**ACTION:** Panel leads to notify umpires of changes not previously communicated

DG has produced a document regarding matches without an MO. Its being finalised and will be circulated to panel leads for onward circulation soon

### Men

#### a) Premier / A\* - HJ

Congratulations expressed to Dan Barstow on his appointment to the 2024 Olympic games

Rebecca Edwards is added to the Men's A star panel following her first assessment at Premier level.

Pre-season start panel briefing held – main discussion intent on aerials

Meeting with Prem coaches also held to discuss interpretations and expectations

#### b) A Panel / B\* - GS

No changes

#### c) B & C Panel - LB

Alan Miller and Tony Bond have retired from umpiring and are thanked for their service to NPUA

### Women

#### a) Premier/A\* - LK

Congratulations expressed to Hannah and Rachel on their appointment to the 2024 Olympic games

Thanks expressed to Annette Harvey for stepping back in to umpire at the start of the season.

LK held a meeting with the panels on expectations and interpretations. Will also hold a Prem coaches meeting.

#### b) A & B \* Panel -DB

Andy Lord is taking a break from umpiring and is moved to the reserve list



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**Minutes of the EHUOPC Meeting Held on 21, Sept, 2023**

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DB will arrange a meeting mid season briefing with the panels.

**c) B Panel – AH**

No changes

**d) C Panel – DG**

No changes

**GROUPS:**

**a) NPDP / Candidate**

There are 11 NPDP, 11 candidates identified by areas for assessments

**b) NYUPL**

EHUOPC thanked Mason for his work in this important umpiring development role, and especially the talent academy with 36 umpires, and support staff. Also noted that 5 NYUPL umpires are now NPDP.

**c) NPUA /AREA RESERVES**

**ACTION: CP and CB to send match day tips to new reserves when appointed.**

**8. AOB**

The possibility of umpire exchanges to be discussed following a request from UDP umpires from Europe **ACTION: LP to take to EHUSSC**

**9. Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm via Zoom

The meeting Closed at 20:55pm . With thanks to Dawn Bonner for Zoom access