

Minutes of the EHUOPC Meeting Held on 14 May, 2024

Attendees:

Liz Pelling (Chairman Elite) (LP), Dawn Bonner (DB), Sean Edwards (NPUA Chair), Debbie Garner (DG), Charles Hallows (CH), Ann Hopkins (AH), Mark Jarvis (MJ), Rob Jenkins (RJ), Louise Knipe (LK), Chris Peart (CP), Gary Stent (GS)

The Meetings opened at 19:00 on Tuesday, May 14, via Zoom conferencing.

1. Apologies for Absence

Lee Barron (Chairman Conference) (LB), Simon Gillett (SG),

2. Minutes of 21 Feb, 2023

No matters arising not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

3. Updates from NPUA Exec/EHUSSC

The possibility of umpire exchanges was discussed at EHUSSC and agreed they need to be two way. UDP and U4E opportunities may be possible if opportunities arise. Will look for opportunities for season '24/25. **ACTION: HJ/LK to discuss with EHF contacts and revert/discuss to EHUSSC. RJ to advise HJ on draft double headers as soon as known.**

Key Characteristics for Umpiring Support will be rolled out at Conference **ACTION: EHUSSC to discuss at its next meeting**

Two development groups have been held for umpire support; a virtual event based on analysing a match, and then a group attended Cup Finals Day, where matches were reviewed based on Umpiring Key Characteristics and the Support Key Characteristics were discussed and observed

NPUA Conference '24/25 is confirmed for 7/8th September in Nottingham at the Jubilee Hotel and conference centre. Details were shared with members via GMS on May 3rd. An exciting agenda is planned, and the conference will be open to EHO members on day 2. **ACTION: All members to sign up as soon as possible**

Whilst it was acknowledged that Clubs had been inputting scores more regularly, we still need club input to increase as the scores are a valuable source of information. **ACTION: To be part of club liaison at the start of season ALL/Exec**

4. GMS Update

A long list of outstanding wishes for improvements to GMS still exists **ACTION: Ongoing by EH/WTU/ NPUA Webmaster**

5. Coaching & Assessing Update

MJ provided a full update on season 23/24.

With increased umpire support numbers, this season has been a very good one, both in terms of supporting the panel umpires and those candidates put forward by the areas. We have seen a significant rise in the number of assessments, offering more progression between the panels, coupled with a record number of candidates being assessed.

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Support Appointments for 23/34 Season

Coaching: 120 (M), 94 (W)

Assessments: 200 (M), 150 (W)

Total number of coaching's/assessments completed for season: 564 – (282 appts)

Congratulations to new support members:

L3 Coaches: Mark Everard,

L3 Assessors: David Elworthy, Mason Wright, Mark Everard

Umpires' Managers: Lee Barron Mark Everard, Gemma Jones, Mason Wright

New Candidates:

L3 Coach Candidates: Helen Sargeant, Ann Hopkins

L3 Assessor Candidates: Robert Brownbridge, David Monger, David Savage, Julie Ferrett

Support lists were reviewed by EHUSSC and will be updated to reflect non-activity over the coming weeks ready for the restart of the outdoor season in September **ACTION: MJ/EHUSSC**

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

CP: First half went well, but availability slightly dipped with grateful thanks to areas helping.

RJ: Dates where all games are on the same day still a struggle, but noted these are less than before. Late games require some umpire travel/welfare consideration, often making us look more regionally at appointments whilst still avoiding too many same-club appointments.

End of season Cup finals went well. Thanks to all those who supported.

The BUCs season also went well, with enjoyable finals. Thanks to Julian Warburton for the excellent organisation.

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 guidance for A star, is that two marks of 9 or 10 on Prem games is needed for promotion and usually 'within' a season, with final ratification of promotion based on continuously high performance, with final ratification required by EHUOPC. 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. Outside of the marking system, EHUOPC has authority from NPUA Executive to move umpires between panels, and may from time to time make changes outside the bands..

As 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 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.

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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
- 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

Milestones:

This season, we have celebrated many milestones, and publicised them on social channels – thanks to Jaime Cox for the excellent graphics and to Jonthan Hull for organising the commemorative shirts.

Congratulations to the following members on milestone matches:

Umpires:

500 – Stephen Cox

500 – David Howell

300 – Rob Brownbridge – NEW

300 – Andy Higgins – NEW

300 – Nick White

300 – Ann Hopkins

200 – David Colbourne

100 – Nikki Butcher

100 – Peter Hammond

100 – Saul Shohet

100 – Kevin Twissell

100 – Mason Wright

Umpire Support:

400 – Dawn Bonner

300 – Paul Box Grainger NEW

200 – Simon Gillett – NEW

200 – Richard Kirk

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Panel updates:

All panel leads provided comprehensive updates to panels during the meeting. Notable highlights are below.

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 (and umpire support) who have not taken NPUA appointments 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

Men's Panels

a) Premier / A* – HJ

Amar Chudasama and Harry Collinson are awarded their National Badge and are moved to the men's Premier panel

Mark Jarvis is stepping down from umpiring on Men's Prem but will continue to umpire and is moved to the A panel.

Julian Warburton is moved to the A panel
Matt Parry is moved to the reserve panel

b) A Panel / B* – GS

Stephen Cox has retired from umpiring and is thanked for his years of service to NPUA and hockey in England

With many Men's Div 1 games now on Saturday as well as Sunday, umpires need to make themselves available for both for best opportunities

c) B Panel – LB

Aaron Campbell is moved to men's B star panel

Phil Mutlow and Charles Hallows are moved to the B star panel

Mike Boyne, Huw Richards and Ricard Shaw move to reserve panel

Jo Spooner has retired from umpiring and is thanked for her service.

d) C Panel CH

Jono Goold is moved to men's B panel

Peter Lemon has retired from umpiring and is thanked for his service.

Dave, Eggleton, James Freeman and James Wakeland are moved to reserve panel

Women's Panels

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a) Premier/A* - LK

Chris O'Hagan, Pritpal Sihota and AJ Small are awarded their National Badge and are moved to the women's Premier panel

Stephen Cox, Gill Lord and David Howell have retired from umpiring and are thanked for their years of service to NPUA and hockey in England.

Gemma Jones and Helen Sargeant are moved to A panel

b) A & B * Panel -DB

Viv Carveth, Tom Cox and Kevin Twissell are moved to A Star panel

Ann Hopkins has retired from umpiring (her final game will be at the Mixed Finals in June) and is thanked for her years of service to NPUA and hockey in England.

c) B Panel - AH

Lucy Mulliss is moved to the reserve panel

Jo Spooner has retired from umpiring and is thanked for her service.

d) C Panel - DG

Glayne Price and Moli Smith are moved to women's B panel

Gary Ryding is moved to reserve panel.

Sue Row has retired from umpiring and is thanked for her service.

GROUPS:

a) NPDP / Candidate

Ryan Andrews, Tim Clay, Lee Cooper, Adam Fleming, Simon Gibbons, Paul Hewitt, Neil Johnson, Ben Nicholls, Phil O'Hagan, Anwar Yusuf were successful in their L3 outdoor umpire assessment and are moved to the men's C Panel

James Bartrip, Scott Moen and Hatty Wood were successful in their L3 outdoor umpire assessment and are moved to the women's C Panel

Matt Pilgrim returns to NPUA and is added to the men's C panel

Letter for new NPDP/Candidates to be sent to Areas by End June. Add a fitness level to the letter. Ideally NPDP would aim for Prem level tests or at least to B panel level. **ACTION: SG**

b) NYUPL

Mason Wright is thanked for managing the NYUPL programme and the many junior events during the season, and those still to come in the summer.

c) NPUA /AREA RESERVES

Not Umpired and moved from Reserves: Emma Bennett, Zac Longstaff and Andy Lord. Lia Harper moved to Area Reserve panel

8. AOB

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Noted that the EH Calendar is available for dates of matches (Sept and October below). Fixtures to follow.

[Centralised Calendar | England Hockey](#)

DAY	DATE	INTERNATIONAL	SENIOR 1
Sat	21-Sep-24		MWEHLPi1 WEHLDiv1&Conf 1
Sun	22-Sep-24		MEHLDiv1&Conf 1
Sat	28-Sep-24		MWEHLPi2 WEHLDiv1&Conf 2
Sun	29-Sep-24		MEHLDiv1&Conf 2
Thu	03-Oct-24	M Euro Hockey League	
Fri	04-Oct-24	M Euro Hockey League	
Sat	05-Oct-24	M Euro Hockey League	MWEHLPi3 WEHLDiv1&Conf 3
Sun	06-Oct-24	M Euro Hockey League	MEHLDiv1&Conf 3
Sat	12-Oct-24		MWEHLPi4 WEHLDiv1&Conf 4
Sun	13-Oct-24		MEHLDiv1&Conf 4
Sat	19-Oct-24	M21s Sultan Johor Cup (MYS)	MWEHLPi5 WEHLDiv1&Conf 5
Sun	20-Oct-24	M21s Sultan Johor Cup (MYS)	MWEHLPi6 MEHLDiv1&Conf 5
Mon	21-Oct-24	M21s Sultan Johor Cup (MYS)	
Sat	26-Oct-24	M21s Sultan Johor Cup (MYS)	MWEHLPi7
Sun	27-Oct-24	M21s Sultan Johor Cup (MYS)	Champs (T1) 1

11. Date of next meeting:

Tbc September, 2024 for new committee via Zoom

The meeting Closed at 21:30pm . With thanks to Dawn Bonner for Zoom access