



Minutes of the NPUA AGM Held on 30th August 2023 – via Zoom

Meeting Open - 19:03 with 66 members in attendance

1. Apologies – Jo Pennycook, Ian Dinwiddy, Daryl Sudworth, Rob Cann, Edward Howard, Janice Tasho, Kevin Twissell, Nick Meakin, Nick Lockhart, David Howell, Ady Green, Nikki Butcher, Campbell Reeman, Simon Gillett, Ben Tompkins, Glayne Price, Colin Anderson, Sue Row, Polly Roberts, Jack Tovey, Paul Sexby, Richard Shaw, Lee McEvoy, Charles Hallows, Bruce Bale, Graham Woolcock, Juile Ferrett, and Chris Blogg

2. Present – Mark Everard, Rachel Williams, Richard Kirk, Sean Edwards, Simon Webb, David Monger, Rebecca Edwards, David Ellcock, Saul Shohet, Annette Harvey, Grant Douglas, Kevin Hopkins, Jason Horne, Phil Mutlow, Rajiv Khanna, Rob Jenkins, Nick James, Chris Peart, Jackie Gibbs, Gemma Jones, Lizzie Pelling, Tim Forte, Ann Hopkins, Mike MacDowell, Robert Brownbridge, Mason Wright, Nick White, Lee Barron, Sarah Chapman, Mark Jarvis, Alex Bandurak, Matt Harrison, Andy Brookes, Lewis Gibson, Paul Bradley, Julian Warburton, George Deaves, Mason Wright, David Colbourne, Louise Robinson, Tom Cox, Mckenzie Brailsford, Teresa Jolly, Jason Davies, Annette Golding, Jonathan Hull, Neil Johnson, Peter Tovey, Stephen Mason, Chris Duerden, Nick Padget, Dave Merrell, Andy Higgins, Dougal Perfitt, Martin Twist, AJ Small, Jaime Cox, Bob Jordan, Tim Clay, Debbie Garner, Mark Davidson, Nick White, Clare Barwood, Jane Hallett, Hamish Jamson, Tim Martin, Tanya Sargeant, Helen Sargeant, Colin Crayford, Andy Barnes, Edward Westbrook, John Litchfield, Dawn Bonner, Angela Buckley.

3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes were proposed by Rachel Williams as an accurate record of proceedings and were seconded by AJ Small.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings by 82% of the meeting, with 0% rejecting them and 18% abstaining.

4. Chair's Report

My last annual report as Chair, it has been an interesting tenure with the introduction of OMS then GMS being a bugbear for most of us, I know it has been getting easier but there is definitely a long way to go, so thank you to the OPC for dealing so admirably with the challenges that have been thrown up. This year is our 20th Anniversary, we have certainly grown as an organisation in this time, offering many development opportunities across the membership, I am sure these will continue in the future and hope that you can take up these opportunities they are well worth it, will be good to see as many of you as possible on Saturday evening. I think you will agree that it has been a successful season for our international umpires and UMS who have been appointed to the very top tournaments around the world both indoor and outdoor and continue to well represent NPUA.

The exec has been working on your behalf tirelessly over this year, from securing an increase in the mileage rate at the beginning of the year, continually searching for sponsors as well as always looking for opportunities to strengthen NPUA. I would like to thank the committee for all they have done in my time as Chair, which I am sure will carry on when the new exec meet for the first time. Also, thank you to the OPC, IPC who ensure that appointments are fulfilled each and every week of the outdoor and indoor seasons. The Strategy committee also work hard forming the umpiring/ Coaching direction of the association. Here's to a successful season for you all!



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5. Association Accounts

We ask that members put in their expenses onto the system in a timely manner so we can make informed decisions to know where we are financially in the year. It is not necessarily required to claim, but just to have the note in so plans can be made with regard to budget. The finance report was sent across to the membership.

The accounts were proposed by Richard Kirk and seconded by Raj Khanna. They were accepted as an accurate record by 97% of the meeting, with 3% abstaining

6. Association Subscriptions

The proposed subscription levels for the forthcoming season are as per the below – no amendments are proposed:

Honorary Vice President and Life Members Nil

Full Member – Umpire 125.00

Full Member – Non-Umpire 125.00

Indoor Only Member 65.00

Coach Candidate 125.00

Young Member 32.50

Associate Member 5.00

Young Umpire 5.00

NPDP and Candidate Nil

This reverts to the category of membership when they are admitted so if before the end of December a full membership and reduced if after December

Visiting Umpire Nil

Reserve Umpire Nil

We have a policy currently that if a member undertakes very few appointments yet has been regularly available we reserve the right to reduce the subscription to the level of any potential travel claims. As in previous years, if the season is curtailed then a pro rata 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 Mark Everard. They were accepted by 97% of the meeting, with 3% abstaining.

7. Election of Officers

Richard Kirk and Rachel Williams are all happy to continue in their current roles (Treasurer and Secretary respectively):

i. Richard Kirk Proposer: Andy Higgins Seconder: Jamie Cox

The re-nomination of Richard as the Association Treasurer was accepted by 100% of the meeting.

ii. Rachel Williams Proposer: David Monger Seconder: Karen Fynn



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The re-nomination of Rachel as the Association Deputy Chairperson was accepted by 98% of the meeting, with 2% abstaining.

Rebecca Edwards, AJ Small, Jonathan Hull, Ed Westbrook, Julian Warburton, Charles Hallows and Simon Webb are all prepared to continue in their non-officer roles.

The nominations of these non-officers were accepted by the meeting (as a block), and all were duly re-elected to the Executive, with 97% of the meeting voting for, with 3% abstaining.

David Ellcock was proposed by Rachel Williams and seconded Richard Kirk to join the Executive in a non-officer role.

Their nomination was accepted by 92% of the meeting, 3% rejected with 5% abstaining.

Jaime Cox was proposed by Lee Barron and seconded by Richard Kirk to join the Executive in a non-officer role.

Their nomination was accepted by 84% of the meeting, 3% rejected with 13% abstaining.

Chris Blogg was proposed by Rachel Williams and seconded Richard Kirk to join the Executive in a non-officer role.

Their nomination was accepted by 80% of the meeting, 7% rejected, with 13% abstaining.

Chair:

Thanks go to Mark Everard for his time as Chair of NPUA, it's been a turbulent time and I'm sure we can all appreciate the effort and commitment that goes into the role.

Congratulations to Sean Edwards (Proposer: Liz Pelling, Seconded: Dawn Bonner) who was nominated for the role of Chair.

Their nomination was accepted by 98% of the meeting, with 2% abstaining.

Deputy Chair:

Thanks go to Sean Edwards for his time as Deputy Chair in a turbulent time.

Chris Blogg (Proposer: Liz Pelling, Seconded: Chris Peart), **David Monger** (Proposer: Dawn Bonner, Seconded: Dr Clare Barwood), and **Gemma Jones** (Proposer: Sean Edwards, Seconded: Hannah Harrison), were nominated for the role of Deputy Chair. We sincerely appreciate all the nominations.

The next Deputy Chair will be Gemma Jones: Congratulations Gemma!

8. AOB

Questions raised from the membership:

1. Is the change to one of the bi-annual fitness tests for A*/Premier umpires having to be completed in-person a vote of no confidence from the Executive Committee in those umpires self-regulating both of those tests correctly?

The annual fitness test has been updated to include a second fitness test for Premier and A* panels with one needing to be watched in person. At the top level we look to drive



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standards which is why we brought in a second fitness test and to avoid losing fitness towards the end of the season. Realistically there as a move to retain credibility so one should be done in person for the A and A* panels.

2. Can we have clarification on what the policy is regarding how much members can claim for a hotel and meal allowance when asked to fulfill appointments over 220 miles away from home?

Should you need a hotel the night before due to the distance or the time or the game or a combination, the contribution is £45 for a hotel with no meal allowance – unless fulfilled by BUCS (due to the time of game and transport issues etc) we offer up to £60 and a £5 meal allowance with a receipt which needs to have prior approval from Kirky. This could be reviewed but is dependant on England Hockey. It is appreciated that no hotel will be this price, but it is a contribution, not fully covering a hotel. Any hotel contribution needs to be pre approved before hand by the Treasurer not just the BUCS at the higher rate.

3. With the recent relaxation in clothing regulations for a player, will the Association still be mandating skorts/trousers for its members?

We are looking to launch a clothing policy in the next few days – at Conference which includes having a choice to wear what they feel comfortable in, whilst remaining professional.

4. In the constitution, is there a time limit for the post of NPUA Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson please? Can I suggest a maximum of a three year period?

No, there is nothing in the constitution at the moment. The exec can discuss the potential of having a maximum term for officer roles. This will involve a constitution update for next years AGM.

5. Thanks to David Ellcock for his leadership and position of Chair of Selectors. We appreciate all you have done for the association and the work you have put in.
6. Thanks to Mark Everard who is standing down as NPUA chair after a few years. Mark has done a brilliant job leading us through league restructures and new regulations, IT system issues as well as the COVID pandemic, and has built a good working relationship with England Hockey.
7. Conference and GALA dinner – accommodation deadline has now passed. We can take bookings up to this evening, so please let us know as soon as possible.
8. Joining instructions for conference were sent out to the membership today, there was a slight typo. Please arrive at 9.00 for a 9.30 start on Saturday. The first input starts at 9.30am sharp.
9. Outdoor OPC – everyone on the committee to stand except for Nku. Thanks go to Nku, we are still waiting for another C panel selector.



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With no other items raised from the meeting floor, the meeting was closed at 19:50