



Minutes of the NPUA AGM Held on 3rd September 2024 – via Zoom

Meeting Open and members welcomed by Chair, Sean Edwards - 19:333 with 55 members in attendance

1. Apologies – Mark Davidson, Rob Cann, Rajiv Khana, Colin Anderson, Nick Lockhart, David Savage, Aaron Campbell, Matt Harrison, Nikki Butcher, Julian Warburton, Ashley Freeman, Simon Gillett, Martin Twist, Viv Carveth, and David Ellcock.

2. Present – Sean Edwards, Richard Kirk, Rachel Williams, AJ Small, Andy Higgins, Ann Hopkins, Alan Dow, Alex Bandurak, Andy Barnes, Angus Porter, Annette Golding, Annette Harvey, Anwar Yusuf, Bob Jordan, Chris Duerden, David Monger, Dawn Bonner, Debbie Garner, Gemma Shepherd, George Deaves, Jackie Gibbs, Jaime Cox, Jason Davies, Jo Swift, Johnny Downer, Jonathan Gillespie, Jonathan Hull, Keely Dunn, Kevin Hopkins, Lee Barron, Mason Wright, Matt Pilgrim, Mckenzie, Mia Dewing, Neil Johnson, Nick Padget, Oscar Newton, Paul Godfrey, Paul Box-Granger, Paul Bradley, Peter Divall, Peter Tovey, Phil Mutlow, Phil O'Hagan, Rajiv Khanna, Rebecca Edwards, Rob Jenkins, Robert Brownbridge, Saul Shohet, Simon Gibbons, Simon Keys, Simon Webb, Stephen Limbert-Mason, Stuart Freeman, Teresa Jolly, and Tom Cox.

3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes were proposed by Jaime Cox as an accurate record of proceedings and were seconded by Dawn Bonner.

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

4. Chair's Report

- Most domestic appointments ever completed in the 2023/24 national league and BUCS seasons, with thanks as always to Area members and appointers for their support.
- England Hockey Performance KPIs on domestic umpire and umpire support performance and international performance successfully delivered.
- Significant investment in development events & resources this year, including umpire support convergence session, indoor finals day and launch of key characteristics of umpire support.
- First indoor pre-season briefing held with national clubs in December, with an outdoor equivalent to be delivered in the next week
- NPUA strategy to be communicated at the conference this weekend.
- Continued international success. Nine English umpires on the FIH Leading panel which is comfortably the highest in the world; next nation is New Zealand with four.
- Delighted to have four NPUA members appointed to the Paris Olympic Games - Congratulations to Dan, Hannah, Margaret and Rachel.
- Thanks to Jonathan Hull, Ed Westbrook and Chris Blogg for their significant contribution to NPUA while members of the Executive Committee
- Thanks to Simon Gillett and Lee Barron for their excellent leadership of their respective Performance Committees
- Thanks to Frances Block and Nick White for their expertise and contribution to the Indoor Performance Committee



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- Sadly we lost two very special people this year.
- In loving memory of James O'Hara and David 'Tex' Lane

5. Association Accounts

The finance report was sent across to the membership with no questions from the membership.

The accounts were proposed by Richard Kirk and seconded by Rob Jenkins. They were accepted as an accurate record by 98% of the meeting, with 2% 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

The subscription charges were proposed by the Executive Committee and seconded by Andy Higgins. They were accepted by 96% of the meeting, with 4% abstaining.

7. Election of Officers

All officers of the executive committee are happy to continue in their current roles:

i. Sean Edwards Proposer: Hannah Harrison Seconded: Nick Padget.

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

ii. Gemma Jones Proposer: Hannah Harrison Seconded: David Ellcock.

The re-nomination of Gemma as the Association Deputy Chairperson was accepted by 100% of the meeting.

iii. Richard Kirk Proposer: Andy Higgins Seconded: Debbie Garner.

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

**iii. Rachel Williams** Proposer: Jaime Cox Seconder: AJ Small.

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

Rebecca Edwards, AJ Small, 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 100% of the meeting accepting the voting.

Those standing down from exec:

Thanks go to Edward Westbrook and Jonathan Hull for their time as members of the NPUA executive committee, we thank Jonah for offering to continue to be the point of contact for the NPUA shop.

8. AOB

Other business raised from the membership:

1. With regard to the appointments of the officials that make up the main committee, is there a reason why there is no fixed term of the appointed person and at the end of that term the position they fill becomes vacant and up for re-election. Then nominations and votes by the members to appoint candidates, even if it's the same person. Unless I'm missing something it appears that whoever is in position is just asked if they wish to carry on, and if they do it becomes a self-elected process?

The NPUA is a volunteer organisation and we rely heavily on people coming forward for these roles. If people wish to nominate, they are always welcomed. We will also be starting a new initiative this year – an Ask the Exec form where people can offer their contributions, ask questions and make suggestions on how best to improve the organisation.

2. News that Raminda (Mindy) Danda has passed away. He was very well known across the country for Youth Festivals and Midlands will know him well too, he was at Rugby school, and there is a tribute on a much loved page. A loss for hockey.

3. Question around a welcome pack for indoor members. Unsure if the NPUA website or GMS is the place to go to for contacts, and kit and radios etc.

New member's pack is always sent to candidates and NPDP on outdoor side and is obviously a loophole on the indoor side which should be addressed – we will endeavour to send the packs to indoor only group. If any members need this pack, who don't have it please email secretary@npua.co.uk.

4. There have been some questions about the NPUA Kit deal. We would like to clarify that we are still with Specialist Sports for the next year as a minimum. Mizuno is sponsoring England Hockey, but we have a different deal and will continue with our contract and keep everyone up to date should that change.

5. Is the NPUA website up to date and what is the aim of it?



NPUA website is meant to be an externally focused point, not something our members visit. With the old website members went into the back end, so it's not really intended to be somewhere our members go except for the constitution etc. It's not as up to date as it should be, no, but we are working on it.

6. One of the big successes from last year was the indoor briefing, this year we have a National League (Outdoor) briefing, and we would like everyone to be across the content. The briefing will also be circulated separately, so please make your best efforts to attend.

7. Conference joining instructions have been sent, and they were unfortunately a little limited. David Coote, one of our guest speakers has dropped out due to being appointed to an international fixture in Germany. We are re-vamping the agenda and will send out the final program tomorrow. Logistics have all been shared and there will be an opportunity for everyone in attendance to have a headshot taken for social media posts.

With no other items raised from the meeting floor, the meeting was closed at 20:08