

Minutes of the EHUOPC Meeting Held on 30 September 2025

Attendees:

Liz Pelling (Chairman Elite) (LP), Dawn Bonner (Chairman Conference) (DB), Sean Edwards (NPUA Chair) (SE), Lee Barron (EHUSSC Chair) (LB), Jade Bloomfield (JB), Mark Everard (ME), Debbie Garner (DG), Simon Gillett (SG), Charles Hallows (CH), Matt Harrison (MH), Ann Hopkins (AH), Jonathon Hull (JH), Hamish Jamson (HJ), Louise Knipe (LK), Peter Mackintosh (PM), David Monger (DM), Gary Stent (GS), Julian Warburton (JW)

The Meetings opened at 19:30 on Tuesday 30th September 2025 via Teams conferencing.

1. Apologies for Absence

Hannah Harrison (HPP represented by DM)

2. Minutes of 4 June Meeting

No matters arising not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

3. Updates from NPUA Exec/EHUSSC

NPUA Exec Update: SE

- Successful conference attended by 100+ members
- Start of season briefing issued to members ahead of the league start
- Significant investment in 3-way radios issued to 20 Support members for mandatory use on coaching and assessment games
- Members at 2024/25 season given 'free' casual shirt
- No increases in Membership fees for 25/26 agreed at AGM.
- Fitness – a thank you to members for embracing the new fitness guidelines. The second test window for N1,N2 and HPP opens on 1st December to 18th January. A reminder that watched tests are needed for any potential promotion from N3 to N2 or HPP
- Clubhouse Skills session at conference was aimed to encourage two-way dialogue with clubs and umpires reminded that liaising with panel leads with any footage received after match day is also useful for development and consensus
- WhatsApp community introduced for NPUA activity, with weekly 'Decision Time' introduced to draw our 'learnings' from the clips and how to handle similar situations; Community includes announcement such as key availability dates, fitness test venues.
- Fitness – a thank you to members for embracing the new fitness guidelines and to AJ Small for co-ordinating. The second test window for N1,N2 and HPP opens on 1st December to 18th January

ACTION: SE to arrange for a note to go to clubs re Umpire Feedback

Awards:

Honorary VPs of NPUA: Paul Box Grainger and Liz Pelling

Graham Nash Umpire of the year: Clare White

Tex Lane Indoor Umpire of the year: Laura Seager

Chris Todd Umpire Support of the Year: Hamish Jamson

Julia Gill Lifetime Achievement Award: Margaret Hunnaball

Jane Nockolds Young Umpire of the Year: Max Davidson

Individual Panel Awards

Men's Premier: Campbell Reeman

Men's A/A star: Chis Pelmore

Men's B/S Star: Phil O'Hagan

Men's C: Anwar Yusef

Minutes of the EHUOPC Meeting Held on 30 September 2025

Women's Premier: Clare White
 Women's A / A star: Chloe McCall
 Women's B / B star: Martyn Shuttler
 Women's C: Graeme Hope

A new award was introduced at Conference for members who have completed 500 EHL games made up from Outdoor, Indoor and Umpire Support. The following were recognised in the new 'NPUA 500 Club': Paul Box Grainger, Stephen Coc, Jackie Gibbs, Andy Higgins, David Howell, Tony Kelleher, Richard Kirk, Rob Jenkins, David @tex' Lane, Stephen Rice, Pritpal Sihota, Nick White

EHUSSC Update: LB

New panels were introduced for the start of the new season for both Outdoor and Indoor panels alongside a revised marking scheme. Positivity to the change was expressed by members at conference.

Next strategy meeting will be held on 20th October 2025.

4. Appointments Update (JW, JB, PM)

JW: Generally positive feedback from the umpires. Premier fixtures have led to opportunities for others due to various availability issues, especially the double header weekend in October. Games will be spread in Division 1 to allow for development.

JB: Several rearranged games due to withdrawals/sickness /distance, double ups and regional reserves needed in the first few weeks, plus a few men's umpires have agreed to umpire in the women's programme which will help.

PM: Has strong availability and is rotating umpires. Has had to rearrange several games but able to replace.

ACTION ALL UMPIRES: If games are postponed or abandoned, please let your appointer know so that the correct process for re-arranging the game on GMS can be put in place.

With thanks to NPUA umpires who have doubled up on match day, and to Areas for providing cover with Area Reserves:

	Women's	Men's
NPUA Double ups	11	1
Area Reserves		
YNE	1	
NW	2	
Mids	1	
East	0	
SC	1	
SE	1	
London	2	
West	1	
	9	1

5. Umpire Support (JH, MH)

Request to update reports GMS for new panels is with EH/GMS

JH spent time at conference talking to US regarding season expectations. Appointments being made after umpires in a timely basis is appreciated. Mentoring appointments have also taken place. It was noted that there are fewer games on Sunday's now to give opportunities to those who Umpire or MO on a Saturday. Adding notes to GMS critical to helping prioritise US.

6. Panel updates:

NPUA panels have been completely refreshed, with members informed via meeting on July 12th. The new panels have been designed to make movement within panels more fluid and based on current 'form'. This included moving umpires to NPUA reserve panels who did not complete the fitness test

Minutes of the EHUOPC Meeting Held on 30 September 2025

by the summer deadline, with return to panel following completion and / or assessment. OPC will continue to monitor form, including availability, in making panel movement decisions.

The HPP panel will be reviewed at the December OPC meeting for potential moves

Panel leads / mentors provided a full update to their panels.

The following panel changes have taken place:

Will Champness moved to M N1

Stuart Fenton moved to W N3

Mark Watts moved to M N4

Moli Smith moved to W Reserve

Candidate news:

Congratulations and welcome to NPUA to Gihan Thabrew and Helen Prinsloo who passed their L3 assessment and are moved to W N4

Moved to reserve panel (original panel leads to maintain contact):

Neil Smith from MP; Abby MacArthur from WP; Andy Poulian from WP & M N2; Rob Jenkins from W&M N2; Gemma Jones from W&M N2; Chris O'Hagan & Adursh Ruparelia from W N2; Jane Taylor from W N4; Ben Tompkins from HPP; Mitchell Blakemore & Steve Cronin from M N3; Chris Peart from W N3; Tim Clay & David Wright from M N4

Retirements from NPUA reserve panel: Elliot Baker, Mark Davidson, Matt Parry

The following have achieved **EHL Outdoor Milestones** since the start of the season:

Cambell Reeman – 200

Clare White – 200

Margaret Hunnaball – 100 US

NYUPL

A formal young umpire panel within NPUA has been established with the help of EHO (Will Davey as lead) and a final plan is being developed.

International Updates

Nominations have been submitted for International Badges for some English umpires and Umpires' managers. The next scheduled meeting for FIH is 28th October where criteria of matches will be discussed.

7. AOB

EH has introduced online reporting for Red Cards. This can be found on the EH website

<https://www.englishhockey.co.uk/governance/rules-and-regulations/discipline-and-misconduct/red-cards>.

Umpires to be encouraged to download a copy of the 'old' form [1.-Combined-red-card-misconduct-complaint-form-CLEAN-LD-EDIT.pdf](#) so that they are aware of information needed for completion of the report. **ACTION: Panel Leads / mentors**

8. Date of next meeting:

December tbc

The meeting Closed at 9.37pm with thanks to attendees