



**HEREFORDSHIRE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE
HOCKEY UMPIRING ASSOCIATION
www.hgwhua.co.uk**

**Minutes of the committee meeting
Wednesday 7th December 2016 @ Cheltenham Civil Service Sports Club**

Present:

David Lillywhite	DL	Chairman
Alison Cook	AC	Secretary
Steve Court	SC	Appointments Secretary
Peter Wheatley	PW	Chief Coach
Mike Sheppard	MSh	Gloucestershire County Rep
Terry Cook	TC	Lay Member & Herefordshire County Rep

<i>Item Number</i>	<i>Agenda Title</i>
1.	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Shaun Cullimore, Caroline Maddocks, Mark Windsor.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting:</p> <p>Agreed.</p>
3.	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>The missing headset has been accounted for.</p> <p>Contacting clubs to seek their views as to having an umpire liaison officer is not being pursued.</p> <p>Arranging an Umpire developer course is still to be done.</p> <p>Action point: DL & MS</p> <p>Information leaflet on website regarding progression from Level 1 and amended introduction still to be done.</p> <p>Action point: AC</p>
4.	<p>Reports</p> <p>Chairman – nothing to report that isn't on the agenda</p> <p>Secretary – AC advised membership was now all resolved for the season and updated membership lists were on the website.</p> <p>Treasurer – report tabled, see reports annexe, and accounts updated to 30th November had been circulated.</p> <p>Appointments Secretary – report tabled, see reports annexe. SC advised that he had 2 spare headsets and Mark should have 4 with Shaun Cullimore's awaiting return. They would need to be used intermittently to keep them usable.</p>

	<p>Chief Coach – report tabled, see reports annexe. There was a discussion about actions the League could take with regard to pitch problems. TC advised that the League were happy to write a letter that could be given to a pitch landlord highlighting problems and possible outcomes. It was important the appointment secretary was advised of problems as he could then take refer these to the League representative.</p> <p>Pitches at West Wilts (surface) and Gloucester (lights) were already on the radar.</p> <p>DL reminded the committee that we were fortunate in having League officers on the committee and could get feedback but this should not be abused.</p>
5.	<p>Lay Members</p> <p>TC - none SCu - none</p>
6.	<p>County representatives</p> <p>TC (Herefordshire) – He had been approached by Leominster that the occasional umpire felt they could wear yellow and were not inclined to change, particularly if the away team played in red. This was noted.</p> <p>Action point: SC to add something to the email sent to umpires.</p> <p>TC had also been approached by two clubs independently of each other who asked that due to the shortage of umpires whether there could be one appointed and one club at games so as to make best use of the scarce resource.</p> <p>It was said that this might help HGW in that club umpires would have a chance to talk to a panel umpire and they may be able to be encouraged to give some games to HGW. It was also recognised that some members may feel uncomfortable being the only one appointed.</p> <p>Action point: SC to contact panel umpires to see who would be prepared to umpires as a singleton.</p> <p>MSh (Gloucestershire) – Level 1 course at Evesham shortly which will include some Glos candidates.</p> <p>CB (Wiltshire) – no report.</p>
7.	<p>West Umpiring sub-committee - items of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be purchasing headsets for all umpires.
8.	<p>League matters</p> <p>Nothing of any relevance to HGW.</p>
9.	<p>Rule Books</p> <p>It was agreed to order 150. AC queried whether a book should be sent where the associate member was receiving ‘free first year membership’ and their address was clearly outside the HGW area. Committee agreed these should not be</p>

	<p>provided.</p> <p>Action point: AC to advise MW of number required.</p>
10.	<p>Umpire contact details</p> <p>Following a couple of incidents it was agreed umpires should have easily available details of an emergency contact. One suggestion was on one side of their red card but AC said she would not feel comfortable going through someone's pockets. It was felt as long as their colleague was given the information then where it was held was up to the individual.</p> <p>Action point: AC to place an item on the website.</p>
11.	<p>Umpire Development/Recruitment</p> <p>SC advised he didn't feel the aim of the proposed club evenings would be achieved and it may be better to move forward using the recent Chippenham event as an example. AC said that if we could get an Umpire Developer course then we would have more resources to help. As an example she and TC would be able to do something in Herefordshire on a small scale where it would not be worth the usual coaches coming in. It would also be easier for umpire developers to work with umpires on certain games rather than having trying to find a game that suited all levels.</p> <p>It was thought HGW could ask a club to set up a game and make all the playing arrangements and HGW would provide umpires to officiate and watch.</p> <p>Action point: PW to speak to Gloucester and AC to send him contact details.</p> <p>It was noted that the game at Wootton under Edge last season for a similar event was considered as too high a standard. Chippenham are considering another event but a lower level game.</p>
12.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>A sensitive matter was discussed that was not to be minuted.</p>
13.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 7th February @ CCSC, Cheltenham. AGM 4th April at same venue.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 8:53.</p>

Reports Annexe

Treasurer

The accounts and my version of membership lists are attached. I take it now that we have 31 Full, 61 Assc, 13 Hon Mem and 45 Free Assc from L1 courses making the 150 limit that we are insured for.

Paget is still to cash is £12 double subs payment and the cheque received from L Channing is still to be cashed.

Rule books purchase (last time we bought 130) would need to be at least 150 at £3 each would be £450. Do we want to hold any spares, if so then the cost goes up as it would if the unit price increased. I have told Anne Mullins that we are still to make a decision over any purchase through the Welsh HA.

It therefore should be noted that in offering the free one year associate membership and as it falls in a rule book period then it has cost us at least £135 + postage.

The free membership offer started in the 2014 – 15 season figures are to date:

2014 – 15 - 5 were Free Members and 3 took Assc membership in the 2015 – 16 season, nil are members in 2016 – 17

2015 – 16 – 15 were Free Members in the 2015 – 16 season and 3 took it up in the 2016 – 17 season.

2016 – 17 – 45 were Free Members in the 2016 – 17 season.

I have done the normal email contact with the Hon Treasurers of the clubs in readiness for issuing the first half invoices.

Appointment Secretary

Assuming this coming weekend goes according to plan I will have made 175 appointments not including rearrangements for this half season. Last year it was 194.

Currently I have 10 West and 14 panel umpires available. Last year it was 8 and 17.

As last year I am running a roster so the pain is shared equally.

Thanks again to Darrell and Dave Lennie for their coaching work.

Steve

Chief Coach report

Not a huge amount to report, but some significant worries.

So far this season, I have received 16 reports covering 12 of our active members. The reports have been positive, informative and encouraging. The coaching side of the association is going well, thanks mainly to the sterling activities of Dave Lennie and Darrell Scarth. Thanks to them for their support and help, and also to Steve for arranging the appointments.

I am worried about relationships between some clubs and some of our members. One member has decided to resign as a result of the very poor attitude of one of the clubs in our area, and another member felt that he needed to end a match early because of the attitude of the players.

While it is clear that there are weapons in the umpires' armoury to deal with player behaviour and dissent, the onus has to be on the clubs to make it worth our while to go and officiate their matches. If players are constantly in our ears as we umpire, yes – we can deal with them there and then, but will we really feel that our afternoon has been worthwhile? Might we not decide to hang up our whistles and have our Saturdays for ourselves and our families? Clubs need to bear in mind that umpires (like players) are amateurs - we umpire at least in part because we enjoy it, and, if that enjoyment ceases, then we will give up.

The same applies to pitches. I have had several complaints about things like inadequate goals, invisible pitch markings, slippery surfaces etc. I know that a lot of clubs don't own their pitches, so don't have direct control over them, but they do need to cover their responsibilities to provide a properly specified playing environment. The league need to be more proactive in their league rules about pitches – they need to make it clear that it is the home club's responsibility to provide a pitch that meets the requirements of the rules of hockey, and that, if the pitch is seriously sub-standard, then the umpires can decide to abandon the match and award the match to the away side.

Clubs will only take action if it hits them where it hurts – i.e. in league points.

I have been through the rule changes and have prepared a document to explain them to our members. Once we have made a decision about new rule books, I will then publish my document on the website as appropriate.

Thanks to one and all for your support.

Peter Wheatley