

Support & Development for club umpires

Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Umpires Association (HGW) is very aware that offering support to those who umpire club hockey is difficult as our available resources on a Saturday are usually on a hockey pitch themselves. What we are also aware of is that many umpires, once they have qualified, are not offered or are unable to access any coaching to help them improve their umpiring and hopefully make it more enjoyable.

We are looking at other ways in which support can be offered and having come up with the following ideas would like to know whether your club would be interested in taking up any of these options. It must be stressed however that whilst we have some additional coaching resource available this season it is still limited, especially on a Saturday, so we may not be able to meet everyone's wishes but we will do our best.

The options we have thought of so far are:

- Working with Level 1 unassessed umpires to gain their assessed status.
- Coming along on a Saturday when you have several home games and giving some tips to the umpires.
- Vets games in the evening if the umpires would welcome some feedback.
- Any county tournaments/competitions.

Any other suggestions welcomed!

There are two caveats:

- That the umpires are happy to receive some feedback. If there are several games taking place and not all umpires want feedback that is fine.
- That we are not looking to encourage umpires to join the neutral panel but if an umpire expresses an interest in this they will be given details of what is required.

In line with England Hockey's aspiration for every club to have a club umpire developer, as Chief Coach I feel this is a quick win for all three counties. I would like each club to be in a position where they have their own Umpire Developer/Coach to progress their own umpires. Information regarding this qualification can be found on the England Hockey website and can either be done by attending a course or online via their Hockey hub. The link is <https://hockeyhub.englishockey.co.uk/clubumpire>

Also, all clubs should be aware that the Chief Coach and the Coaching team are always happy to answer any umpiring related questions.

Dave Lennie

Chief Coach - HGWHUA

