

OHUA Committee Meeting

Tuesday 2nd April, 7:30pm at OUP.

Present: Bridget, James, Mark, Mike, Lesley, Tim

Apologies: Colin, Clive, Hatty

Agenda

Commenced at 19:37

1. Minutes of previous meeting
2. Interactions with clubs
 - a. Status of membership and payments
 - b. OHUA nominated contacts (see below)
3. Summer hockey
4. Treasurer items
5. Level 2 assessments
 - a. Current status
 - b. New nominations (Bicester)
6. Plans for AGM
7. Website
8. EH league reorganisation plans
9. Single national umpiring organisation plans
10. Umpire radios (Mark)

Minutes of previous meeting

Actions:

- Investigating umpiring clothing: [Action ongoing: Clive]
- 3-way radio set: James has purchased, it has been used and seems to be useful.
- Add umpiring panels (A,B,C, CQ, CNQ) to website: [Action ongoing: Mark]
- Interaction with Hawks regarding contributing to the OHUA committee [Action: Bridget - she is set to discuss with Hawks the following day]
- Contact with Wychwood Badgers - they have been contacted but no response so far: [Action ongoing: Lesley]
- How to account for the £4,800 that was in the joint Trysports account: Treasurer is keeping details of these sums separate and transparent, but the money is still held in the single OHUA bank account.
- Proposed rule changes: feedback was sent to EH about concerns over the 4 x 15 min quarters causing additional timing over-runs. Feedback was acknowledged, but no further feedback yet.

Minutes were approved.

Interactions with Clubs

Membership status

$\frac{2}{3}$ of the clubs have now been invoiced. No payments have yet been received [Action: Mike to chase]

It has been difficult to track down the key contacts at the clubs.

No response on membership has been received from Wychwood Badgers or Oxford University.

Agreed that we need to create a 'status report that describes which club is at which stage in the process [Action: Mike]

OHUA nominated contacts

Each club should have a point of contact at OHUA. For some clubs that person will be the umpire developer at the club, but for other clubs they will have their own umpire developer who needs to have a direct contact at OHUA.

The current status is outlined below, with the following notes:

1. We are expecting Hawks to contribute a member to OHUA committee so will not propose any contact until Bridget has completed discussions with them
2. Hoping that Colin will arrange details at Thame [Action: Colin]
3. We exclude the Universities at this stage as they have a transient population and do not often provide umpires. We may engage with them more once things are better established.
4. We will concentrate for now on the bigger clubs, and engage with the smaller ones once things are better established

It was agreed that we need to create a 'job spec' for what is to be achieved by the club umpire developer and OHUA nominee role [Action: Tim to draft this - see below].

Treasurer and Finance

Bank mandate is still problematical and need to be re-submitted. [Action: Mike].

Otherwise all is progressing and no particular issues.

Summer Hockey

This is the main opportunity to get new umpires into the system. We must utilise the OHUA - Club developer interaction to push this.

It was suggested that we appoint to men's summer league matches. Whilst this potentially gives access to be better standard games, it was not clear whether we would have the capacity to handle this. Agreed to review this once we better understood the availability side of things.

Level 2 assessments

Current status

Marc Bransby and Les Cooke have been approved as L2.

The status of Mike Corran and Tim Dudgeon is still unclear. [~~Action: Tim~~ to follow up with Colin].

New nominations

L2 nominations were received for Bicester. It was agreed that if the interaction with clubs process is successful then we will receive more of these nominations and need to be able to handle them. We need to respond to Bicester. [~~Action: Tim~~ to forward the request to Bridget and Mark for formal response].

Umpire Development

Ray has circulated proposals for a club umpire developer course. There appears to be interest in this. [~~Action: discuss at next meeting~~].

Tim raised concern that our efforts in umpire development are primarily focussed around bringing L1 into the system and progressing them, whereas we do not do much to work with club umpires who do not take appointments, and we know there are issues with the standard of some of these. We need to work out how to handle this better, and the attempts to build better liaisons with the clubs should be one way to achieve this. [~~Action: discuss at next meeting~~].

Plans for AGM

Date was agreed for 13 June at OUP.

The agenda was proposed in include:

- Formalisation of the new constitution
- Clarification of the new rules for 2019/2020 season
- Summary of the impact of the new league structures
- Discussion on umpiring development
- Discussion on single national umpiring body

Details to be defined at the next committee meeting [~~Action: agenda item for next meeting~~].

Website

Actions are ongoing [~~Mark~~]. No specific items to discuss.

EH league reorganisation plans

Discussions are ongoing at EH on:

- New disrepute complaint mechanism
- Improved IT

- More consistent league rules and governance
- Simplification of organisational structures

A process for feedback will complete in May, with consultation closing in October. Decisions expected in November.

Single national umpiring organisation plans

Discussion on insurance, based on push by EH to change the current system to one that includes personal accident cover, but costs £12 per head (compared to ~<£1/head for the current provider). It was generally felt that this was not beneficial, but that we should make it clearer what was included in the current cover.

Details of the possible reorganisation to a single body are on hold until the EH governance discussions have completed.

Umpire Radios

Umpire Talk radios have limited supply.

NPUA may be using another source in the future.

We need to reclaim any radios that are currently in the possession of clubs and/or individuals who are not taking regular appointments.

AOB

A future discussion is needed on how to handle clubs who are not providing umpires to the appointing pool [**Action: agenda item for next meeting**].

It was mentioned that it's not clear how to get involved with umpiring coaching. The best approach now is to talk with Colin [**Action: Colin to discuss at next meeting**]

It is anticipated that we may well be short of umpires suitable for S3A matches next year.

A L1 course is being arranged at Bicester on 27 May. This should be broadcast.

Next committee meeting should be ~1 month before the AGM e.g. early in May. [**Action: Tim to arrange poll**]

Meeting closed at 21:40

Club nominated contacts

Club	Umpire Developer	OHUA contact
Abingdon		Mark
Banbury	Mark/Lesley?	

Bicester	Rachael Hucker	Tim
Hawks	Katie Sunderland/ Adrian Higgins	(1) BM initially?
Henley	?	Hatty
Kidlington (4)	?	?
OHC	Tim	
Thame (2)	Josh Lay?	? CT??
Wallingford	Hatty	
Witney	James	
Wychwood	James	
Wychwood Badgers (4)	?	?

Roles of Club Umpire Developer and OHUA Liaison

Proposed objectives for these positions. Note: in some cases one person will be playing both roles, in others there will be a separate person from the club and the OHUA committee who need to work together. When the role is split the two parties will need to work out how to divide the responsibilities. It's probably not right to be prescriptive on how this split should happen at this stage - it is for the two parties to work out how best to achieve these objectives between them.

[Action: discuss at next meeting]

Goals

1. Umpiring
 - a. Identify individuals at club(s) willing to take up umpiring, and provide them with encouragement and support.
 - b. Assist club umpires to go through the L1 process.
 - c. Liaise with OHUA to arrange coaching/development opportunities
 - d. Maintain and improve standards of club umpires even if they are not taking appointments
 - i. Identify key individuals needing support.
 - ii. Target coaching to those identified.
 - iii. Identify individuals with the ability and aspiration to progress in their umpiring career
2. Broaden knowledge of umpiring amongst players, including:
 - a. Respect for umpires.
 - b. Recognition of how the appointment system operates.
 - c. Better understanding of the rules and their interpretation.
3. Improve interactions between the club and OHUA

- a. Club contacts on OHUA website should be kept up to date.
- b. OHUA membership on website should be kept up to date.
- c. Regular contact between the club umpire developer and OHUA representative, if applicable
- d. Umpiring issues to be escalated to the main committee where needed.