

OHUA Committee Meeting

Monday 29 April, 7:30pm.

Present: Bridget, Tim, Ray, Mark, Clive, Mike, James

Apologies: Lesley, Hatty

Meeting commenced at 17:41

Minutes of previous meeting

Actions:

- Investigate umpiring clothing: Adidas may be providing umpiring clothing at a national level. Wait and see how this develops.
- Add umpiring panels (A, B, C, CQ, CNQ) to the website: Mark and Colin have reviewed the status of members but this has not yet been added to the website as some coordination on announcing this is needed [Action ongoing: Mark].
- Interaction with Hawks regarding contributing to the OHUA committee: Bridget has spoken with Hawks. Adrian Higgins and Katie Sunderland have agreed to be involved and should be added to the mailing list [Action: Tim]
- Contact with Wychwood Badgers - no update: [Action ongoing: Lesley]

All other actions are handled as agenda items.

Interactions with clubs

Status of membership and payments

Approx half the clubs have now paid. OHC have not responded to invoice [Action: Tim].

A report of the status with each club will be provided [Action: Mike]

OHUA nominated contacts

These were reviewed and updated status is provided below. Some roles are still unknown and need to be filled.

Job spec

This was drawn up by Tim and reviewed. An updated version is provided below. This should be circulated to all club umpire developers [Action: corresponding OHUA liaison where appropriate - an action list can be found below].

Mentoring/coaching existing club umpires

It was agreed that club umpires who are not taking appointments are not getting much attention, and standards are varied. We need to address this and identify those needing support and coaching. This is one of the functions of the club umpire developer.

How to handle clubs not providing umpires to pool

A document regarding Trysports Leagues (but with wider implications) was circulated by Jacqui Barlow. It summarises the situation well, but does not cover the subject of penalties for clubs not providing umpires. That said, Clive stressed that this year Oxfordshire and Bucks clubs have been fulfilling their obligations, though Berkshire have had some difficulties.

Umpire development

Courses

Ray raised the possibility of running 'Introduction to Umpiring Courses' for the clubs. The aim is to get people started in the process, and involves giving them advice during an actual game. This is a course supported by EH but run at county level. It was agreed that this would be a good way to get people into umpiring. Possibly we should aim to run two courses a year, one aimed at U18s, the other at over 18s. **[Action: propose a plan at the AGM]**.

Ray raised the possibility of running 'Umpire Developer Course'. This is to provide guidance to umpire developers and it was felt that most OHUA committee members should attend this, as well as their club developer counterparts. Possibly we should aim to hold such a course in September. **[Action: propose a plan at the AGM]**

L2 process

Discussion mostly deferred until Colin is available. A document has been created by Huw for Berkshire HUA that might be useful to consider. SCHUA also have some material. **[Action: discuss at next committee meeting]**.

The response from Bridget for request for L2 assessment for umpires from Bicester has been forwarded to Rachael Hucker. No response has been received.

The situation with L2 assessments for Tim and Mike Corran is still unclear. Colin has been contacted on this,

Getting into coaching

Discussion mostly deferred until Colin is available, but it was felt that this logically followed on from the 'Umpire Developer Course'. **[Action: discuss at next committee meeting]**.

Summer hockey

All is set up for the summer league, that starts on 7th May (1 week earlier than expected) and ends on 22 July. We have a good number of people who have registered availability to umpire. We anticipate to provide umpire coaching to 2 games each night, possibly all 4

games depending on circumstances. [Action: umpire developer/liaison to contact clubs and encourage members to sign up].

Treasurer items

Bank mandate is still in progress [Action ongoing: Mike].

Unclear whether OHA were ever invoiced for JAC matches during 2017. Clive thought that they were, but Mike had not found any evidence of this. The sum involved is not large. [Action: Mike to try to clarify].

Some members appear to have made 'donations' regarding their expenses, but had not done this intentionally. It was unclear whether this was a user error or glitch in the system. [Action: Mike to provide examples to Mark who would follow up with Tex].

Information sent my Mike following the meeting:

*Main account: £2496.01 PLUS £2300 ringfenced Trysports money, total £4796.01
Reserve: £4924.84 untouched this season.*

6 expense payments to pay plus any not claimed yet.

*Clubs not paid umpire membership: Abingdon, Oxford, Thame, Wallingford.
Clubs not paid umpiring fees for S3A, Trysports: MK, Oxford, Thame, Witney. £850 to refund due to Henley who paid my invoice having already paid Trysports direct.*

Other outstanding items, Brookes for BUCS, EH cup matches, JAC matches.

Plans for AGM

Agenda

This is arranged for 7pm on Thu 13 June at OUP.

Agenda for the AGM was discussed and draft has now been circulated. This needs to be sent out to members in the next 2 weeks.

Officers

Clive will be standing down as Saturday appointments secretary.

Bridget will be standing down as Chair.

We need to identify candidates for each role.

Website

Nothing of note to report.

AOB

Les Cooke was approached by Hawks to be their nominated L2 now that their Ladies 2nd team has been promoted to South Div 2. But he has already been allocated to Henley who were also promoted. Mark has been allocated to Hawks, but it is hoped that Hawks will attempt to provide a L2 themselves soon.

The situation on the implementation of the new FIH rules is unclear. This is mostly regarding whether EH will adopt the switch to 4 x 15 mins quarters and suspension of time for penalty corners. The new rules will NOT apply to summer hockey. Printed rule books do not appear to be available this time as there is a mobile app that provides direct access to the rule book.

Tim pointed out that guidance on the interpretation of some aspects of the rules is not readily available and is largely handled by 'word of mouth'. This results in some inconsistency in how rules are interpreted, both with a certain level and between different levels. It was agreed that this should be rectified if possible, but unclear at what level this should be handled. It was understood that there is some FIH guidance on this, but it is not widely known. **[Action: Bridget to review and to discuss at next committee meeting].**

Club nominated contacts

Club	Umpire Developer	OHUA contact
Abingdon	<i>Mark Cribben?</i>	Mark
Banbury	Lesley	Mark
Bicester	Rachael Hucker	Tim
Hawks	Katie Sunderland	Bridget
Henley	<i>???</i>	Hatty
Kidlington	<i>???</i>	<i>???</i>
OHC	Tim	
Thame	Clare Seed	<i>Colin?</i>
Wallingford	Hatty	
Witney	James	
Wychwood	James	

Wychwood Badgers	???	???
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Role in red are important to fill or confirm.

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 descriptive 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.

Goals

1. Umpiring
 - a. Identify individuals at clubs willing to take up umpiring and provide them with encouragement and support.
 - b. Assist club umpires to go through the L1 process, including running 'Introduction to Umpiring' courses.
 - c. 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.
2. Broaden knowledge of umpiring amongst players
 - a. Mutual respect for players and 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 website should be kept up to date.
 - b. OHUA membership on website should be kept up to date.
 - c. Regular contact between the two parties if being filled by separate people.
 - d. Umpiring issues to be escalated to the main club committee where needed.

OHUA Liaison Action List

1. Identify their counterpart at their club(s) where not known (Hatty: Henley, Mark: Abingdon).
2. Introduce themselves to their club counterpart if not already done so. Inform them of the developer/liason process and the job spec (above).
3. Notify them of the AGM on 13 June and make sure someone from the club attends.
4. Provide a 'heads up' about the possibility of the 'Introduction to Umpiring' and 'Umpire Developer' courses (see minutes for details). These will be discussed at the AGM.

5. Notify club umpires about summer hockey and the opportunity for coaching.
Encourage members to sign up with availability.
6. Request the club to review and update the club contacts (chair, treasurer etc.) listed on the OHUA website.