

OHUA AGM - 13 June 2019

7:00pm at OUP, Jordon Hill

Apologies: Colin Toms, Jerry Unsworth, Stephen Smyth, Richard Bennett, Emma Forrester, Steve Coleman, Jim Patel, Andy Stalker, Clive Briant, Jill Instone, Jacqui Barlow.

Present: Carol Hicks, Lesley Potter, Jim Chadbourne, Hacheal Hucker, Jo Smaldon, Catherine Forteath, Clare Seed, Charlie Baggs, Adrian Higgins, David Hughes, James Bartrip, Andy Gwinn, Ray Hipkin, Les Cooke, Hatty Wood, Mike Vince, Bridget Midwinter, Mark Cumming, Dave Settle, Mark Cribbon, Tim Dudgeon.

The meeting was preceded by an overview of the rule changes for the coming season which was given by Mark Cumming. The one area of uncertainty that arises is over whether the switch to 4 15 minute quarters will apply to the regions and counties.

Meeting commenced at 7:43pm.

1. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM have been available on the website for several months. The minutes were approved [proposed by Andy Gwinn, seconded by Les Cooke].

2. Officers reports

Chair: Bridget Midwinter

Bridget gave an overview of the OHUA strategy and priorities. This can be seen in the presentation that can be found [here](#). The committee structure was described as were some of last season's achievements, in particular:

- The work to improve engagement with the clubs.
- The mechanism for funding the appointment of umpires has changed with clubs being invoiced directly for their umpires.
- Les Cooke and Marc Bransbry have been approved as level 2 umpires during the season.
- The ladies summer league is being supported by appointing umpires to all matches, and providing umpiring coaching to the majority of these.

Bridget described how England Hockey (EH) have provisioned a new Officiating Management System (OMS) that is aimed to provide a simpler but more transparent single system for managing umpire appointments at all levels. This is based on the "Who's the Umpire" system that is used by some other sports. EH have paid for this system and it will be in use for the National league and Southern Counties league this coming season. It is expected to be available to the counties the following season. There will be maintenance costs that are expected to be similar in scale to the current Tex Solutions system.

EH have been undertaking a governance review which may have significant impact on the counties. Feedback will soon be sought and will be completed by October. A final proposal will be published in November, with a decision for the implementation plan expected in March 2020. There will be roadshows in the coming months to provide further information.

A single umpiring body the “National umpiring group” is being set up, and could result in significant organisational changes that might impact OHUA. More details will follow later.

Treasurer: Mike Vince

Mike took over the treasurer role from Ashley Hurden this year and has been getting up to speed with the finances. The accounts show a large excess of income over expenditure for the current year, but many changes occurred over the year, including the mechanism for how clubs and leagues pay, which mean that finances for this year are not easily compared to the previous year. The annual accounts are summarised [here](#).

Coaching: Mark Cumming (standing in for Colin Toms)

The summer league has again been a big bonus for coaching and for approving new Level 1 umpires.

Young Umpires: Mark Cumming

The focus on bringing on young umpires is starting to get traction. Young umpires are classified as being under 23 years of age. We now have an additional 10 new young umpire members with 5 being on the South development list. They are being given good opportunities and experience.

Saturday appointments: Clive Briant

Clive was not able to attend but sent this report:

OHUA appointed to 3 Saturday ladies leagues, involving 17 teams. Mostly from Oxfordshire but this year we added 4 from Buckinghamshire: Buckingham, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury. Apart from one eventful weekend when virtually all matches were cancelled we did not suffer much from the weather and the season finished more or less when it should have. Unlike like last season, that seemed to go on forever.

Mostly OHUA clubs were “well behaved” and we did not suffer to much from a lack of umpires being available. Although it did seem to me that umpires entered and/or changed availability rather later than they should. (nag: Umpires please enter availability as early as possible and avoid doing it last minute). Apart from this, fewer clubs fell short on their obligation to provide umpires compared to last season, when Richard (Bartlett) and myself were nagging clubs most weeks. In fact, on a few occasions an OHUA surplus meant we were able to fill gaps for Berkshire matches HUA, when Simon (Milford BHUA) struggled to get enough umpires to cover all their fixtures.

I believe, all our regular appointment taking umpires now have radios.

Thank you to all "my" appointed umpires this season and an extra thank you to those who kindly swapped their fixtures when it was necessary to juggle things around I'd like to thank all

Other appointments: James Bartrip

Appointments were made to 222 non-league games including BUCs, JACs, Cup and summer league.

Admin updates

Website and GDPR

Various changes were made to the website at the start of the season to accommodate the GDPR regulations. These were completed and the charges for making these changes have been paid.

Umpiring updates

Umpire developer role

Ray Hipkin described activities that are ongoing at the EH level to improve the development of umpires. This is part of a 5 year vision, much of which has already been happening, but has never been formalised.

In the Berks, Bucks and Oxon region 17 Level 1 courses have been run, resulting in 240 umpires receiving training. The danger is that these potential umpires then go back to their clubs and lose interest for various reasons. Information for how to progress has been available, but typically umpires have needed to find this out for themselves.

A key part of the new efforts is the creation of an "Umpiring Developer" role at each club. This is a senior umpire who is charged with handling the club umpires and giving them guidance and support. The county HUAs do not have sufficient resources for this. The umpire developer takes a new umpire from the start to the stage where they are ready for taking county appointments, at which stage the county HUA steps in.

Umpire training

Ray described EH backed schemes for introducing people to umpiring. Typically these are 4 hours sessions combining theory and practice, and is a skills development course. These can be extended with coaching of umpire developers during the matches. The counties can organise these courses

Jim Chadbourne suggested that we should try to run courses for umpire training and the umpire developer role during the pre-season period when clubs should be playing suitable matches. It was agreed that we should aim to identify opportunities for this through the clubs.

OHUA liaison with clubs

Tim Dudgeon described the work OHUA has been undertaking this year to improve interactions with clubs. Key to this is the creation of an umpire developer role at each club and for the club to have a representative on the OHUA committee to act as a liaison for the umpire developer to work with. In some cases both roles will be handled by the same person.

This provides a direct two-way channel of communication for umpiring matters between a club and OHUA. These roles have now been assigned for all Oxfordshire clubs, except for 2 of the smaller clubs who do not appear to have umpires. A “job description” for this has been distributed to those involved.

Appointment of officers

The following committee members are standing down:

- Chair: Bridget Midwinter
- Saturday appointments: Clive Briant.
- Non-portfolio: Eleen Schallig

All other committee members agreed to stand again for the coming year.

Andy Gwinn agreed to stand as chair [proposed by Bridget Midwinter, seconded by Jim Chadbourne]. James Bartrip agreed to switch to handling Saturday appointments [proposed Mark Cumming, seconded David Hughes], with David Hughes agreeing to take over the non-league appointments [proposed by James Bartrip, seconded by Adrian Higgins]. Les Cooke [proposed by Hatty Wood, seconded by James Bartrip] and Rachel Hucker [proposed by Lesley Potter, seconded by Andy Gwinn] agreed to stand as non-portfolio members.

These appointments were unanimously approved by the attendees. Subsequently, the committee is now:

Position	Person(s)
President	Bridget Midwinter
Chair	Andy Gwinn
Secretary	Tim Dudgeon
Treasurer	Mike Vince
Chief coach	Colin Toms
Appointments (Saturday)	James Bartrip
Appointments (other)	David Hughes
Youth	Mark Cumming
SCHUA rep	Ray Hipkin

Non-portfolio	Hatty Wood Les Cooke Rachael Hucker
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AOB

The meeting sent its thanks to Bridget, Clive and Ellen for their work on the committee over recent years.

Bridget thanked the whole committee for their work.

Mark Cribben asked how often queries and criticisms about umpires are received by OHUA. The answer was very few, as seem to be relatively few, and most that do occur go directly to the leagues. But this question made it clear that there may be a need to improve the complaints procedure. The club umpire developer - OHUA liaison channel mentioned above is the clear mechanism for this, so should be used where queries arise.

The meeting closed at 9:51pm