

OHUA 2021 AGM

Thu Jul 8th, 7pm via zoom

Present: Dawn Tucker, Jonathan Williams, Tim Dudgeon, Howard Tucker, Mark Cumming, Jerry Unsworth, Joanne Smaldon, Gary Brock, Lesley Potter, Jim Chadbourne, Bridget Midwinter, Mark Cribben, Rob Broadhurst, Huw Richards, Jacqui Barlow, Richard Bennett, Odette Dawkins, Clare Edwards, Ashley Hurden, Linda Billington, David Settle, James Bartrip, Mike Vince, David Boyle

Apologies: James Thompson, Gail Norbury, Helen Tomlinson, Ray Hipkin, David Hughes

Approve minutes of 2020 AGM

Proposer: Mark Cumming, Seconder: Lesley Potter

The minutes were approved.

General report from the president

Bridget gave a summary of the general report that had already been circulated. She thanked the committee for their hard work. There were no questions arising.

Officiating in the new South Central Area

Mark Cumming gave an overview of the changes due to the England Hockey (EH) re-organisation that are coming into place and will be live for this upcoming season. All the HUAs will cease to operate and will be consolidated into 8 areas that are already in place. In the old South region there will be South East, London and South Central (SC), with Oxfordshire being in South Central.

The South Central Umpires Transition Team (SCUTT), chaired by Simon Milford is managing this transition, and Simon now chairs the SC officiating group. For instance, SCUTT is deciding which leagues they are able to appoint to.

England Hockey Officiating (EHO) has been set up by EH as the sole officiating organisation, to which all umpires will need to become members.

3 tiers of membership are expected:

- Gold, costing up to £30/year, targeted at umpires taking neutral appointments
- Silver similar to gold, but no coaching and assessment but at a lower fee.
- Bronze (free) targeted at club umpires
- Juniors

Gold, silver and junior tiers include insurance, bronze does not. Club insurance may cover this but that will need to be investigated by the individual clubs.

It is not clear yet exactly what the EHO insurance will cover.

The OHUA insurance policy will remain in place until the end of May 2022.

SC will be responsible for communicating umpiring matters with clubs. OHUA will have no formal status this coming season.

All EHO appointments, both neutrally appointed and club appointed, will be handled through the Game Management System, which should start operating in August. Leagues are expected to start on 25th Sept.

Several concerns were raised about whether the new software systems will be ready in time. Nothing has been seen or demoed yet.

Jacqui Barlow has been told that EH are claiming that they are only 4 days behind schedule and are arranging a comprehensive onboarding plan.

The questionnaire sent to OHUA members (with ~70 responses so far) suggests that umpires taking neutral appointments will continue to do so.

Financial report from the treasurer

The financial report had been circulated previously.

Income is significantly reduced as all membership fees are being refunded, but we still have a healthy cash balance.

The report was approved.

Approval of membership fees

The committee proposed free membership for existing members for next year.

However, concern was raised that this might make insurance claims difficult (as the insurer could claim that the individual involved was not actually a member because there was no evidence of them having joined), so it was proposed to set the fee at a nominal £1 to handle this. This proposal for a £1 fee was voted on, proposed by Dave Settle, seconded by Rob Broadhurst, and was approved.

Election of officers

The existing committee has agreed to continue for next year to allow OHUA to function and prepare for being wound up. There were no other people offering to stand for office. It was proposed to vote the existing committee in en bloc (proposed by Richard Bennet, Seconded by Dave Settle) and this was approved.

Richard Bennet suggested a vote of appreciation for the work done by the committee which was agreed by all participants.

Winding up OHUA

There will be a future AGM or EGM, expected in approximately 1 year's time, to wind up the OHUA where the committee will make recommendations on how to handle remaining funds. Bridget Midwinter mentioned that South hockey have substantial funds remaining and may set up a hockey charity to which we could contribute. David Boyle mentioned that Hampshire

HUA are considering paying EHO membership for the first year for those taking neutral appointments, which could also be an option.

AOB

David Settle asked what is plan B if the EH systems software systems don't work at the start of this season. Mark Cumming suggested that we may have to pick up the pieces using the current Tex Solutions system, and that we should be able to do so. It is quite possible that this will be needed for pre-season friendlies.

Meeting closed at 20:20