



**H.B.H.U.A.**

Secretary: Rob Youngs  
53 Kenmore Avenue  
Kenton  
Harrow  
Middlesex  
HA3 8PA

President: Paula Masters  
Knoll Cottage  
15 Gills Hill  
Radlett  
Hertfordshire

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Gosling Sports Centre, Welwyn on 16<sup>th</sup>  
June 2005**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Mike Brown, Ian Roberts.

**Present**

See Attached PDF

**2. Minutes of the previous AGM**

These were agreed.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Reports**

The reports from the President, Treasurer, Saturday Appointment Secretary and Sunday Appointment Secretary are attached in a pdf format.

The payment of whether the Association should fund Level 2 umpires in the East was to be considered at the next HBHUA committee meeting. (post meeting note: the committee decided it was not appropriate for the Association to fund East fees for any umpire).

The Association has been very successful in running Level 1 courses with 74 candidates in October, 24 in March and 12 at a Blueharts course. A further course has been booked for October 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Association has made watchers/coaches/assessors available during the summer.

**5. Election of Officers**

All the officers were unanimously vote unopposed:

President - Paula Masters

Secretary - Rob Youngs

Treasurer - Mike Brown

Appointment Secretary Saturday - Mike Brown

Appointment Secretary Sunday - Iain Fletcher

Chair of selection - Neil Cherrill

Herts Rep - Dan Heydon

Beds Rep - post vacant Mandy Brookes to continue as co-opt willing volunteer.

East Rep - Brian Arnsby

Level 1 Coordinator - Dan Heydon

Newsletter Editor- Rob Youngs

**6. Awards - Presidents Shield**

Awarded to Dan Heydon for his contribution Level 1 management.

**Awards - Rhoda Gains Award**

Awarded to Brian Arnsby for his continuing contribution to the Association and Level 1 assessment.

**7. Website**

Unfortunately due to a lack of time no progress has been made on this.

**8. Any Other Business**

The HBHUA wanted to stress the importance of the Record cards

We should do more to encourage Young Umpires in the East

There was discussion on how to increase the pool without any definitive conclusions.

Max Charnley offered a vote of thanks to the committee for its work

**9. Peter Halliday**

Peter accepted an invitation to give a short talk in the 'tricks of the trade' and the key points are summarised below:

- If umpires point different ways, ensure no team can gain an advantage from the confusion.
- Ensure you do not umpire in a school master type manner, don't be over officious.
- Umpire with empathy, apologise for missing a good advantage.
- Don't be fooled by the noise in stick tackles, watch where the ball goes.
- Ensure you are close to the action as it is easier to 'sell' decisions.
- When playing advantage talk to the players, often they can't see signals.
- Hesitation in decisions sometimes happens, but show humility if that is the case.
- Recognise that you do get decisions wrong and be prepared to seek assistance and change a decision if necessary.
- Use you whistle to indicate different offences; variation in whistle tone is an effective communication.

Paula gave a vote of thanks to Peter which was roundly applauded.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:30pm.



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday 16th June at 7.30pm**

**Venue: Puma Room,  
Gosling Sports Park  
Welwyn Garden City**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous Meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Reports
  - (a) President
  - (b) Treasurer
  - (c) Appointment Secretary
  - (d) Selection and Coaching
5. Election of Officers
6. Awards
7. Any Other Business
8. Peter Halliday
  - Tricks of the trade
  - Importance to maintain your Level
9. Question and answer session

The meeting will be followed by a free finger buffet – Please let me know if you are coming.

R. Youngs, Hon. Secretary

HBHVA.

AGM THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> - ATTENDEES

NAME

Bud Carthy

Alan Smith

Chris Perry

Andrew Leonard

MARTIN BYERS

ANGELA BUCKLEY

JOHN O'KEEFE

DEREK HENNEY

Pan PUTTOCK

Richard Slater

Clive Maynard

Wendy Clements

Ann Budge.

Rosemary Bower

Nikki Park

Katherine Major

PETER MARTINEZ

DAPHNE CHAPMAN

Peter Holliday

Bill Felton

DAVE BLAXILL

Max Charnley

IAN FLETCHER

DAN HEDDON

CHRIS BROWN

ROB YOUNG

PAULA MASHITER

Welwyn

WGE

Letchworth

~~MAR~~ SHEFFARD and SANDY

St ALBANS

BROXBORNE

Bilton Boobme

St. Albans.

St Albans Exiles

Chesham.

BROXBORNE

Varshall Chiltern Ladies

— — —

SOUTH HERTS

LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Harpurden.

Stevenage

Bishop's Stortford

LETCWORTH

LETCWORTH.

ST ALBANS EXILES

WELCOME

*1. 21. 66 - Pete Halliday*

I should like to start with thanks that my committee is prepared to stand for re-election. I indicated last year that this year just gone was to be my last year as President. My Committee have requested that I stand again but this time it will be for the last year. More importantly is that this is going to be Mick Brown's last year. The work undertaken by Michael is far more onerous than my role being weekly pressure not only appointing but dealing with late re-arrangements - a great many problems to handle which are not of his making. Clubs should be extremely grateful for all the Committees efforts but Mick's is especially demanding.

I remain concerned at the disciplinary procedures within the East. I myself was involved in an incident which required a Regulation 3 Report some weeks after a particular incident at one of the Clubs. It took several weeks to investigate and only after consultation at a high level did it come to my attention that I could issue a much delayed regulation 3 Report. If the league had the ability to suspend pending investigation then I would have pressed the League to do so in this instance.

I have come to the view that a more robust and fast-acting disciplinary procedure should be in place. This has to be in everyone's best interests and hopefully provoking a more robust approach to discipline by clubs which I fear falls short in certain clubs.

Whilst the incident I was involved in this year this was less serious than an incident the previous season it is my clear opinion that Discipline should be administered by the Leagues and not the County. This is not to say the County do not properly deal with red cards etc but the process is slow and cumbersome. The leagues rules should be enable disciplinary situations where players/clubs should be immediately suspended pending investigation or suspended.

I urge the League to look closely at their rules and amend them so that decisive action can be taken in extraordinary circumstances. If the amendments are not instigated then,

in my view, it will only be a question of time before a really serious incident occurs and they wished they had. I look to the counties to relinquish control of discipline to facilitate the League in amending their rules.

I have stated before and my views remain the same, that the structure in the East requires overhaul. My personal views are that in any major re-structuring I would be happy for this association to be a sub-section of the League as part of an overall re-organisation.

The feeling amongst my committee is that player behaviour is certainly not improving and indeed is considered to be deteriorating. Many clubs are treating umpires with indifference or contempt. More robust disciplinary processes would, in my view, concentrate the minds of the clubs on player discipline.

Dan will report on new level 1 umpires and course details. I shall simply to say thank you to those involved

The Committee are endeavouring to watch and coach as many umpires as possible in the summer leagues being run at ? and ?.

Young and promising umpires are quickly moved into the East and the average age of pool umpires is a matter of concern.

I am urging the Ladies Leagues to adopt Pool Umpiring which will, in my view, assist in raising the Standard.

At least with level 1 there is now a basic standard to aim at and I feel it has been a success but there is much more to do because having got umpires to level 1 those <sup>who</sup> remain at club level receive, in practice, little or no further training or guidance. This can only be improved by a bigger and stronger pool. Current behavioural standards by certain players and clubs are a direct discouragement to taking-up pool umpires. There are umpires in the pool ~~to~~ I understand refuse to go to certain clubs. I appreciate there are always two sides to a story but what good comes out of the poor treatment of umpires even if they are having a bad game?

potential

*On March 1, 1964  
at the request of the members of the*

*agreed*

I should like to thank all the members of the committee but particularly Mick Brown who has again tirelessly soldiered on. Mick's primary role as appointments secretary is a daunting task particularly because of the last minute changes that plague the role and make it so difficult.

I should like to personally thank all the members of the Committee. Thank you each and every one of you.

## Treasurers Report for Annual General Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> June 2005

Firstly, I must apologise for not being with you tonight, but personal circumstances forbid me.

As you can all see, the financial health of the association is again very good.

The General Account, which is used solely for members of the association, has again made a small surplus. We must thank Rob Youngs, who has done an excellent job this year in ensuring that all our members have paid their fees.

The biggest variance is between last year's officer's expenses and this year is that the Newsletter Editor submitted 2 years expenses this year, which I had not accounted for last year.

The other variances are in line with the increase in membership.

The Level One Courses Account shows a big variance from last year; this is due to two facts; during the year, we increased the fee to attend a Level One course to £30 per person, this was to assist in the work that the association did after the initial theory side of the course (i.e. watching and assessments). I am aware that to be offset against the surplus is approximately £ 200 for the watching/assessments of candidates from previous years.

The Neutral Pool Scheme, which is solely used for the purpose of funding the expenses of those umpires that umpire in the neutral pool scheme, has made a small profit, some of this can be associated with umpires being late in submitting their expenses from previous years; I do not have a crystal ball; so cannot sometimes forecast how much I should accrue in previous years.

So my message to the active umpires is, get your expenses in as soon as possible.

### Recommendations:

Due to the healthiness of the associations' funds, I am proposing the following:

1. The membership remains at £12. Per annum,
2. Due to the very healthy balance held within the Neutral Pool Account and the reduced travelling we are going to have to do in 2005/2006; I am proposing as a one off that every club the association appoints an umpire to, pays a nominal fee of £35 per team as an administration charge, This will obviously be reviewed at the end of 2005/06.
3. I intend to keep the current mileage rate at 15p per mile; this is with in line of all the associations within the EAST.
4. Members who achieve a Level beyond Level 1, should have to pay a reduced membership fee of £ 6 per year; this will ensure that the association has covered it's expenses with regards to insurance and Rule Books.



**Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 30th April 2005**

	2005 £	2004 £
<b>Balance for Year</b>		
General Account	2,667	2,591
Level One Courses	711	(295)
Neutral Pool Account	<u>5,258</u>	<u>4,864</u>
	8,636	7,160
 <b>Represented by:</b>		
<b>Cash at Bank</b>		
Current Account	3,376	2,839
BPA Account	<u>5,127</u>	<u>5,078</u>
	8,503	7,917
Debtors	1,350	130
Creditors	<u>1,217</u>	<u>886</u>
	8,636	7,160

P. J. Masters

P. Masters

M. Brown

M. Brown

**Club Representative's Report**

I have examined the books and records of the Herts & Beds H.U.A. and received further information from the treasurer.

I hereby confirm that the accounts for the year ended 30th April 2005 are in accordance herewith.

I. Martin

I. Martin ACMA - Club's Representative

15th June 2005

*Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association  
Income and Expenditure Account  
For the Year Ending 30th April 2005*

<b>General Account</b>	<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>2003/2004</b>
		<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Subscriptions	1,886	1,045
Interest	49	11
Trf from Old Associations		
	<u>1,935</u>	<u>1,056</u>
 <b>Expenditure</b>		
Insurance	293	134
Officers Expenses	755	111
E.H.A.Rule Books	538	493
AGM Expenses	234	162
Sundry Expenditure	40	80
Excess of Income over Expenditure	76	76
	<u>1,935</u>	<u>1,056</u>
 <b>Level One Courses</b>		
Income	3,233	723
Expenditure	<u>2,227</u>	<u>537</u>
	1,006	186
 <b>Neutral Umpires Pool Account</b>		
Club Subscriptions	2,308	2,955
Expenses Paid	<u>1,914</u>	<u>1,729</u>
Excess Income over Expenditure	394	1,226

**Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association**  
**Creditors and Debtors**  
**As at 30th April 2005**

Debtors	£	
D.Heydon(Level One)	100	
Blueharts	185	
Cheshunt	130	
Harpenden	130	
Bedford	130	
St.Alban Exiles	130	
Bishops Stortford	130	
St.Albans Ladies	110	
Luton Town	130	
Level One Course	175	
	<u>1,350</u>	
Creditors		
M.Charnley	293	} Neutral Pool Scheme
J.McCubbine	30	
G.Seymour Hall	162	
N.Cherrill	23	
I.Fletcher	250	
M.Brown	67	} Rule Books Insurance
M.Brown	100	
BHHUA	293	
	<u>1,217</u>	

## Appointment Secretary's Report for AGM held 16<sup>th</sup> June 2005

Again this year we as an association have struggled badly in fulfilling our weekly commitments.

If it had not been for the help of other counties/umpires doubling up; we would of failed miserably.

The situation is only going to get worse, unless the clubs either start producing umpires who want to umpire in the pool or there behaviour on the pitch improves dramatically.

We as an association had an incident last season where one of our senior umpires rang me and said, I've had enough and do not want to umpire for the rest of the season; it only through me taking on the problem that I managed to convince him the problem was surmountable and he decided that he would come back; possibly scarred from the incident.

The EAST and all the other counties have had various meetings over the last 12 months on how to overcome this short fall of umpires.

I am lead to believe that between the EAST and ourselves we will cover Men's Prem Div A to 2(N/S) and Ladies Div Prem to 1(N/S); however if we have any additional resources the counties will endeavour to appoint below this.

The stance I will be taking, is that any team who regularly give this association a named nominated umpire for the divisions below what I have mentioned above, will get one out of the neutral pool, providing that the fee has been paid.

I have not given statistics this year, as it seems that they fall on deaf ears; I have decided to lay it out that unless this association can start producing regular/weekly umpires; we are doomed.

We cannot keep relying on the same few week in week out; we must encourage them through.

As an association we ran 2 Level One courses in 2004, producing about 100 potential Level 1's; where are they going to go.

## REPORT OF SUNDAY SECRETARY FOR HBHUA A.G.M. ON 16/06/2005

This has again been a long hard season for players & umpires and the summer break looks all too short. This will be a fairly brief report, as I believe that we are in the same situation as last season and I do not want to have another rant like last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to firstly apologise to Cheshunt hockey club for the debacle at the beginning of the season with regards to there H.A. Cup match against Old De Ferrians, it was very unfortunate the circumstances that occurred and I was let down at very short notice and could not due to P.L.U.M. provide any other cover. I do not wish to make any other comment except to say I am sorry to Cheshunt and will make sure it does not happen again.

Next I would like to congratulate Stevenage hockey club on there u18's victory in there national competition, again I am sorry we could not provide umpires on the one occasion we needed to, and over the confusion after that on who supplied umpires. To elaborate on this part, Stevenage asked for umpires for a National ¼ final round, I believed this was an E.C.H.U.A appointment at the least, there was a lot of frantic phone calls made and umpires were eventually supplied, this however was actually the second occurrence in 2 weeks of this happening as Letchworth Ladies II had the same problem with Loughboro Students II in the H.A. Ladies II eleven cup. This was eventually sorted out between myself and the Midlands Ladies secretary. I have been promised a better & clearer approach to this season by David Rose the E.C.H.U.A. Sunday Sec.

I have made appointments on approx 16 out of the 26 Sundays in the season, with a need for on average 8 umpires at a time, that is 128 people. due to the nature of some appointments I would have had to use some senior umpires on several occasions, but most people in the association would only be appointed on average 1 Sunday in every 3 years.

This brings me to my last point, the average age of this association is not getting any younger, we as a committee are trying to find ways of encouraging people to take up umpiring, however the lack of youth within our association and others and in the East is leading to a crisis point, players believe umpires appear by magic, able to cope with whatever game is put in front of them, we know this is not true.

I find it very hard to try to encourage people to give up most of their Saturday every league day to travel sometimes up to 200 miles to put up with the aggravation that is on offer. Speaking personally I sometimes have to think long and hard at the xmas break if I really want to carry on for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of a season, the older I get the harder it will be to carry on and at present if it was not for personal ambition I would very seriously consider giving up pool appointments and going back to umpire for my club.

We are another year on and I will again appeal for volunteers to make themselves available in September and onwards to cover Sunday appointments, I will send out an e-mail in August when the draws are made and put all fixtures that I know of on that list.

Having spoken to Mike about next season, personal ambition aside it will make a nice change within reason to be able to umpire some teams that I very rarely see, due to having been needed at Div1 level for the last 3-4 years & to umpire with some different faces (no slight to my senior colleagues, but is nice to have a change).