



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 23rd
June 2006**

1. Apologies for absence

Richard Burling, Amanda Lawrence, Wendy Smith, Kevin Smith, Russell Nutter, Quentin Keeling, Bud Carthy, Tricia Murphy.

Present

See Attached PDF

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

These were agreed and signed by Paula.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports

The reports from the President, Treasurer, Saturday Appointment Secretary, Sunday Appointment Secretary and Level 1 coordinator are attached in a pdf format.

The treasurers recommendation is that membership should remain at £12 per annum and clubs should have a "Free" this coming year. Following a proposal that the clubs should still pay a nominal fee by Angela, it was agreed that it should be £25.

We have insurance cover for 350 members.

Appointments start on 28th September.

The Association has run 4 Level 1 courses since last AGM.

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

5. Election of Officers

All the officers were unanimously voted in unopposed, the Membership Secretary is a new post created to ease the administrative burden on the Secretary:

President – With Paula standing down, she nominated Neil Cherrill as President, which was seconded by Alan Smith and was unanimously carried.

Secretary – Rob Youngs

Membership Secretary – Angela Buckley

Treasurer- Mike Brown

Appointment Secretary Saturday - Mike Brown

Appointment Secretary Sunday- Iain Fletcher

Chair of selection and Chief Coach - Neil Cherrill

Herts Rep - Dan Heydon
Beds Rep- Still open, but Mike Brown is covering.
East Rep - Brian Arnsby
Level 1 Coordinator - Dan Heydon
Newsletter Editor- Rob Youngs

6. **Awards - Presidents Shield**

Awarded to David Llewellyn for his remarkable progress this year as a young umpire.

Awards - Rhoda Gains Award

Awarded to Paula and Roger Masters for their outstanding contribution to the Association over many years, especially during Paula's time as President.



Neil Cherrill (incoming President) with Paula and Roger Masters and David Llewellyn

7. **Website**

This will be progressed this year.

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.
Brian Arnsby offered a vote of thanks to Paula and the committee for its work

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 23rd June 2006 at 8:00pm

**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

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

R. Youngs, Hon. Secretary

HBHUA ATTENDANCE FRIDAY 23rd JUNE 2006

NAME

CLUB

IAN FLETCHER

LET CUWORTH

NEIL CHERRILL

LICKY

JIM MCCUBBINE

BROXBORNE

JOCK HENLEY

BROXBORNE

ROGER MASTERJ

POTTERS BAR

CHRIS BROWN

?

Bill Telton

Alan Smith

WOLWYN

Paula Halls

WOLWYN

Sue Owen

WOLWYN

ANGELA BUCKLEY

ST ARTHURS

DAVID LLEWELYN

BLUEHARTS

BRIAN ARSBY

WILKINSON

DAN HEDDON

BEDFORD

Michael Brown

West Herts ?

ROB YOUNG

ST AUGUSTINE'S

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS -

WELCOME

This is my fifth and final President's Address as I am definitely standing down this year. I should firstly like to thank my committee for once again a sterling effort.

It is perhaps a time to reflect. The number of members and level 1 courses run over the years is an achievement of which the Committee can be justifiably proud. We know, however, that we are simply not doing enough watching and coaching of umpires of all ages as resources do not allow.

Little has happened to the number of active pool umpires in the last 5 years except that the average age continues to rise and Mick Brown's problems have not improved.

The Committee have decided that the pool will operate differently next year. Once available umpires have been appointed to games that will be the end of Mick's involvement. If the Umpire drops out then that will be a matter for the club to sort out from their own resources. The Pool does not have the resources to have reserves. This may seem uncompromising but it will make Mick's life easier - it will also make Club's more aware of the weakness of the Association.

On this basis Mick Brown will continue which is important to the pool as the pool will not now lose Mick's considerable experience with the allocation of umpires.

After a hesitation Rob Youngs will stay on as Secretary if there are no volunteers but sadly his involvement in the pool is anticipated to substantially reduce.

There is an underlying warning here - with few umpires coming forward and an aging and diminishing pool there may well be administrative problems in the not too distant future.

As for myself I have been involved with hockey every winter Saturday and a lot of Sundays for over 40 years starting as an 11 year old but I know that I am approaching the end of my umpiring. Some of you know, but perhaps many do not, that I had a large benign ovarian cyst removed and

hysterectomy 9 weeks ago. The mass removed was the size of a football and weighed 7lbs.

You will understand that my own involvement next season is yet to be considered and determined, but it will be limited and may well be confined to Club Hockey. As some of you know Roger and I are horse-racing enthusiasts and this interest will from now on be our priority. Backing a few winners is infinitely more enjoyable than issuing yellow cards!

This leads me on to discipline. My Committee and I have felt for sometime that behaviour is deteriorating. A Correspondent recently raised this issue pointing out that in his view the Club Umpires are watching the behaviour of some of their own players and not joining the pool. The same correspondent pointed out that getting the required number of Club Umpires each Saturday was his own time - consuming nightmare. Umpires flashing cards can only do so much for player discipline. Clubs must identify and deal with troublesome players to assist in making Umpiring enjoyable. Do I want to umpire a bad tempered game of hockey or go the Hennessy at Newbury? Easy one that - and that is the point! Umpires will simply find better things to do at weekends.

I cannot stand-down without referring to one of my hobbyhorses. The structure of Men's Hockey in the East is bizarre as far as I am concerned. Why we need the East at all is mystery to me when virtually all of the meaningful hockey is played under the auspices of the League - then there are the East Umpires and County Hockey Associations as well as this Association. Why on earth 5 separate administrations are required is baffling. Men's Hockey must re-organise to reflect the reality. I have stated time and again that I see no reason why this Organisation should not be a sub-division of the League.

There were two very serious incidents whilst I have been President and I will be frank and say the League's reaction to both was, in my opinion, feeble. In their defence they would say the County is responsible for discipline. One starting step to improving discipline would be for all discipline to be dealt with by the League and for their rules to be amended to allow for immediate and draconian disciplinary powers to be available to include immediate suspension of Clubs as well as Players pending

investigation. This is intended to ensure that immediate positive action can be taken for serious incidents outside of routine red and yellow cards.

All this has dwelt upon the Men's game. I tried, but perhaps not hard enough, to raise awareness of the benefits of pool umpiring in women's hockey in the County. Being honest with myself even if I had tried harder I do not think I would have succeeded.

This brings me on to another structural failing. Before the amalgamation of the Men's and Women's Umpiring Association there was a thriving and active Ladies Umpiring Sub-Committee reporting to the County Association. The amalgamation of the Association, which was directed from the then HA if I recall, was ill advised for Women's Umpiring. It was not a natural amalgamation. The amalgamation was, in my view, detrimental to the development of women's umpiring. My evidence is that Beds and Herts have not been able to put forward a women Umpire to the East in the last 5 years. It was also difficult because there was a men's pool and not a women's pool, and thus, understandably, the Men's game would dominate Committee proceedings.

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. Hopefully his task will be easier next season.

Rob Young arrival on the Committee was a breath of fresh air and brought new enthusiasm and I am delighted he is standing again.

I should also like to mention Neil Cherrill for the tireless effort and enthusiasm for umpiring in Beds and Herts over so many years. I do not think the Clubs have a clue of the extent Neil's contribution over the years but this comment applies^{to} all the Committees. The Clubs will miss them if they are not there.

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

I wish you all well.

Treasurers Report for Annual General Meeting held 23rd June 2006

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 made a surplus of £930. This is due to the fact that in 2005/6 there were no new rule books, this accounts for £538 and there was an over accrual of £100 for insurance; the remainder is due to the fact that the officers of this association seem to fund the association not only in their hard work but also by their own money; as you can see, the officers expenses have come down £371, I know last year we had a catch up but that only a half this figure.

The Level One Courses Account has made a small loss, but at least it now seems that it is self funding, lets hope this continues.

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.

I mentioned last year that I was concerned that this fund was becoming to big and we needed to do something about, well I decided, with the backing of your committee that the £35 nominal fee that I spoke about last year should not be administered and that the clubs should have a "free" year, hence no Club Subscriptions.

The amount of expenses paid out has fallen; this is despite your committee agreeing to increase the mileage rate from 15p per mile to 17.5p per mile.

There are 2 main reasons why the expenses have fallen, that is because we now do not travel outside of the Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire borders unless we get a special request and again there are some umpires in this room tonight that just seem to want to umpire on Saturdays/Sundays and not bother to put in any expenses.

I also know that this association has lost an umpire because he was not being paid his expenses, this particular umpire had not even bothered to submit his expenses for me to pay, so how could I.

I must now apologise for the late payment of expenses at the beginning of this year, it was not easy for me during that time due to personnel problems that occurred around Christmas time.

Recommendations:

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

1. The membership remains at £12. Per annum,
2. Subject to finding out from the other counties what they intend to do with their travelling arrangements for this coming season, I would recommend that the clubs have another "free" year.

Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association
Income and Expenditure Account
For the Year Ending 30th April 2006

General Account	2005/2006	2004/2005
		£
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	1,669	1,888
Interest	54	49
Donations	25	
	<u>1,748</u>	<u>1,935</u>
 Expenditure		
Insurance	121	293
Officers Expenses	384	755
E.H.A.Rule Books	0	538
AGM Expenses	148	234
Sundry Expenditure	165	40
Excess of Income over Expenditure	930	76
	<u>1,748</u>	<u>1,935</u>
 Level One Courses		
Income	1,655	3,233
Expenditure	1,668	2,227
	<u>(13)</u>	<u>1,006</u>
 Neutral Umpires Pool Account		
Club Subscriptions	0	2,308
Expenses Paid	1,428	1,914
Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>(1,428)</u>	<u>394</u>

Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association
Balance Sheet
As at 30th April 2006

	2006	2005
	£	£
Balance for Year		
General Account	3,597	2,667
Level One Courses	698	711
Neutral Pool Account	3,830	5,258
	8,124	8,636
Represented by:		
Cash at Bank		
Current Account	3,895	3,376
BPA Account	5,181	5,127
	9,076	8,503
Debtors		1,350
Creditors	952	1,217
	8,124	8,636

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 2006 are in accordance herewith.

D. Rose D. Rose

1st June 2006

Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association
Creditors and Debtors
As at 30th April 2006

Debtors £

Creditors

R.Youngs	145
ERHA	35
C.Harker	71
C.Brown	68
K.Boddy	11
J.McCubbine	69
D.Blowers	77
B.Amsby	96
I.Fletcher	66
R.Perrin	23
Gosling Leisure Ltd	71
BHHUA	<u>221</u>
	952

Appointment Secretary's Report for AGM held 23rd June 2006

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 umpires doubling up; we would of failed miserably.

I can only see the situation getting worse, we as an association had an incident last season where one of our senior umpires was put into situation where he had to endure verbal abuse from the players of both sides and ended up with a spectator coming onto the playing surface, so if this is the attitude of so called hockey players/spectators, what hope have we as an association got to encourage umpires into the fold.

One way that we could increase the number of umpires in the pool would be to go that additional step and say that any umpire that reaches their level 2, what ever route, cannot be deemed to be a member of the neutral pool scheme for any club after the end of that season. This would give us an additional 5 umpires straight away; we also have 2 clubs who have got nobody in the pool at all, and they both play at a high level.

Now to finish on a couple of pieces of good news, we were as an association fortunate to have somebody join straight after getting through his Level One course which he sat in May last year and he has now progressed to umpiring at Div 1; so you can see, if you want to progress all you have to do is make yourself available and we as an association will get people to come and watch/coach.

Now for the finale, in Paula's address on the AGM notice, she was stating that the appointment secretary had had enough and that the job was going to be run differently from next season. Well you will be glad to here that upon consultation with my wife, I have decided that perhaps the job's not all the bad after all and how could I let a wounded association like ours bleed to death!!!; however there are going to be some changes to the way that things are done; it's going to take some work by you as well.

I'm going to need your availabilities by email every 4 weeks, this will then allow me time to do the necessary appointments and place them on the website and also give me more upto date availabilities and not have to rely on old information; if you become unavailable you must immediately let me know, again by email. The reason, I am insisting on emails, is because at the moment, I am travelling rather a lot for work and if everybody rings me, I am bound to forget something, whereas with an email, I can pick it up where ever I am and there will be a record.

Clubs need to also play their part in this, they have to inform the opposition 2 weeks in advance of the start time, so why can they not also let the umpire know; I am not going to insist on this yet, but any club that rings on a Thursday/Friday will be finding their own umpire, because by then the cupboard is bare.

I think by Friday everything should be in place, the two teams know when the start time is, the umpire(s) know when the start time is, so I will not be accepting any phone calls on Friday night about that Saturday's game.

Non League Fixture Sec. Report for HBHUA A.G.M. on 23rd June 2006.

For those of you who have been to the last few AGM,s and are expecting my usual rant then you may be either disappointed or pleased depending on your standpoint.

The season just passed has been a lot easier for myself, this is due to several factors, the first being the help & support I have had from Neil Cherrill, he has been able to pull the occasional rabbit out of a hat when needed and kept me calm & focused when the lack of umpires looked insurmountable & for this I would like to thank him. The second has been the availability of umpires and there prompt responses to my requests from blanket e-mailing. This method although it may miss some, has turned up quite a few new promising umpires for us to develop, I will apologise for those I have missed during my recruitment drive this season, but I tend to do most of my appointments from work & e-mail is by far the easiest and fastest method of contacting vast numbers of people.

This brings me onto the numbers part of my report.

We have appointed to the following number of games.

H.A. Men's & Ladies games approx 30

Youth games approx 30

Although that may sound like we only need 120 umpires, to get to those figures it does involve appointing a lot more bodies leading up to the games due to injury, sickness & cry off's.

Also that does not include coaching & assessments, which we have tried to carry out on Sunday's this season.

This season has been slightly lighter on games than the last 2 and as such we have got through without too much heartache, however we cannot be complacent and all offers of help are welcome. I would like to say that I am very grateful to those who have offered there services and not been used, each game is judged as to the standard of umpiring expected, and then the appointments are made accordingly. Therefore except for early season rounds of the various competitions and the youth games, it becomes beholden to our Pool Umpires to carry the burden & I would like to thank again my dependables (I won't call them old) like Dan, Mike, Neil & particularly Glenn Seymour Hall who made himself available in very trying circumstances. Also I would like to thank our outgoing President (Paula) for all her support over the years I have been the Sunday incumbent, especially this season doing 'men's' games when saying categorically she had given up doing MENS hockey.

I would also like to say a thank you to all the umpires who have turned out for me this season and hope that they enjoy there summer rest and are fit & raring to go next season.

I will be sending out availability request as soon as I know what games we will be covering in September, so expect an e-mail / call in August.

Level I Co-ordinator AGM Report

Since the last AGM 4 Level I courses have been :

Queenswood with 25 candidates 2 at Bedford with a total of 20 and 1 "abroad" at Aylesbury with 10. All the candidates passed.

During the season approximately 25 who were watched for their Level I passed, thanks to those who did the assessing especially Dave Blowers who had the majority of Saturday watchings as injury meant he was unable to umpire and could assess whilst others umpired.

There is a Level I course being held in St Albans on July 9th organised in conjunction with the HDO. Numbers are restricted and there is at the moment a 755 up take. Clubs which have shown interest in hosting their own course are Broxbourne, West Herts and Blueharts having at least 10 interested candidates.

Any other club or collection of clubs who have at least 10 candidates please contact me to arrange a course.

Dan Heydon