



H.B.H.U.A.

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

President: Neil Cherrill
32 Railway Terrace,
Kings Langley
Hertfordshire
WD4 8JB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Letchworth Hockey Club on 20th June 2008

1. Apologies for absence

Jim McCubbine, Peter Simmons, Mike Tomkys, Peter Haliday, Nick Wallinger, Stuart West, Keith Boddy, Angela Buckley, Kelvin Smith, Daphne Chapman, Gavin Toms, Amanda Laurence, Vanessa Smith, Peter Meltius, Vanessa Porter, Tom Godfrey, Tricia Murphy, Derek Henley, Mark Richardson, Malcolm Carter, Nick Buckland, Amanda Deighton, Roger Fagan, Judy Fagan, Richard West, Andy Lennard, Jane Fowke, Paula Beavis, Natalie Reed, Jackie Clark, Jon Lord, Colin Warne, Bud Carthy, Sheila Miller, Berl Goldbart, Hugh Ross, Glen Seymour-Hall, Gina Joseph, Nicki Reynolds, Kevin Walker, Perri D'Cruz, Michelle Chapman, Don Ward, Bill Felton, Liz Orbell, Matt White, Tom Castley, Simon Kaye.

Present

See attached attendance list in the PDF

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

These were distributed and by e-mail by request.

3. Matters Arising

There were no comments or matters arising and deemed approved.

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 treasurer made 4 recommendations:

- 1) Membership should remain at £15 per annum.
- 2) The clubs rate for membership to the neutral pool should be £100 per annum.
- 3) The mileage rate should be 22p per mile, but will be monitored.
- 4) To accept the accounts.

Proposed: Mike Brown – Seconded: Russell Nutter – Unanimous.

On appointments the committee stressed the importance of ensuring that clubs and umpires actually speak rather than rely on voicemail or unanswered e-mail.

There was discussion on the role of ULO's for neutral pool appointments and it was agreed that a pre-season meeting would be called to raise and discuss all the issues.

The HBHUA would also invoice the clubs for the 2008/09 season fees and membership subscriptions in July/August.

The Association will make watchers/coaches/assessors available during the summer.

5. Election of Officers

All the officers were unanimously voted in unopposed, proposed by Jeremy Pearce and seconded by Alan Smith:

President –Neil Cherrill

Secretary – Rob Youngs

Membership Secretary – Rob Youngs.

Treasurer- Mike Brown

Appointment Secretary Saturday - Mike Brown

Appointment Secretary Sunday- Iain Fletcher

Chair of selection and Chief Coach – Iain Fletcher.

Herts Rep - Dan Heydon

Beds Rep- Dan Heydon.

East Rep - Brian Arnsby

Level 1 Coordinator - Dan Heydon

Webmaster – Rob Youngs.

Newsletter Editor- Rob Youngs

The usual request for new people to volunteer to the committee failed to show any new volunteers.

6. Awards - Presidents Shield

Awarded to Iain Fletcher for his excellent contribution to the association as Chief Coach. The association recognises that Iain has taken the coaching side to the next level and many umpires are benefiting.

Awards - Rhoda Gains Award

Awarded to David Blowers for his contribution to level 1 Assessments. There were notable mentions in despatches to active ULO's including Andy Larkin, Colin Campbell and Gavin Toms.

7. Any Other Business

The HBHUA £50 prize, for entering games on the website, was won by Derek Whitmarsh from West Herts.

Rob was going to look at setting up a Blogg Site.

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 20th June 2008 at 8:00pm

Venue: Letchworth Hockey Club,

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous Meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Reports
 - ✓(a) President
 - (b) Treasurer
 - (c) Appointment Secretaries
 - (d) Selection and Coaching
 - (e) Level 1
 - (f) Membership
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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 20th June 2008 at 8:00pm

Venue: Letchworth Hockey Club,

Attendance

Name	Club	Name	Club
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PHILLIP MARTIN	ST ALBANS	Dave Blaxill	Stevenage
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IAN NOBLE	BLUESMAETS	Iain Fletcher	Letchworth
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ANDY LARKIN	WEST HERTS	Mike Brown	West Herts.
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JOHN WIGENS	HERTFORDS	Neil Chernik	-
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RAY PERRIN	W.C. CITY	Rob Youngs	-
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DAN MEYDON	BEDFORD		
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JEREMY PEARCE	CHESTER		
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ALAN SMITH	W.C.C.		
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DEREK HENLEY	BROXBORNS		
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RACHEL WILLIAMS	LETCHWORTH		
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ROWENA WEHRMANN	"		
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HEINZ WEHRMANN	LETCHWORTH		
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JOHN PROWSE	BISHOPS STORTON		
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PETER GOWAN	LETCHWORTH		
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RUSSELL NOTTER	LETCHWORTH		
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STEVEN WEST	Shefford/Sandy		
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STUART WEST	"		
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MARTIN BYERS	shafford/Sandy.		
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President's Address

I would like to welcome you all to the AGM of the HBHUA and the first time for quite some time away from the Gosling center. I would like to thank Letchworth Hockey club for hosting the meeting.

This is my second year as President and I would again like to give my committee a big vote of thanks for it's support, without which, this association would not function. It has been one of my goals to make the Association more accessible and for us to be more pro-active and visible within the counties and I believe we have made great strides in achieving this. Firstly the website and e-mail has allowed us to disseminate information to each and every umpire (assuming we have their correct details!) and just judging by the response we have had to the AGM e-mail (mostly apologies) this is working well. However the biggest impact has been the work that Iain Fletcher has put in to coaching sessions, often coaching 3 umpires on a Saturday. He has continued this good work into the summer leagues and he is already seen nearly 20 umpires over the last month. With the decline in player behavior we, as an Association, recognise our role in trying to improve umpiring standards, which in turn should help to ensure hockey is enjoyable for everyone. All the committee has worked very hard to keep the Association running and getting umpires on to the pitch and I believe umpiring within our counties is in a much healthier position than it was a year ago.

The neutral pool and knockout competition appointments have operated with the same regular band of dedicated people run very successfully by Mike & Iain. We had a few issues late last year on which the League fully supported us. Since then the Saturday pool has worked well and we have plans to improve the system for next season.

We have run a number of level one courses again this year and we generally have a 100% pass rate on the theory. It is still a source of concern however, the number of candidates that we are able to see through to passing the practical part of the exam is NOT 100%. But, we are still struggling to get people to commit to the neutral scheme and I hope that our higher visual profile will encourage a few more to join the scheme. I am wondering where the next crop of level 2 and level 3 umpires are going to come from? If you know of any candidates that are awaiting assessment then by all means point them in the direction of Iain Fletcher or Brian Arnsby who will make arrangements for them to be assessed.

I would like to thank Dan Heydon and Brian Arnsby for their tireless efforts in this area.

We have now got the website up and running. There have obviously been a few teething problems but in general I believe it has fully vindicated our decision to make the investment on behalf of all the umpires in our 2 counties. I would like to thank Rob Youngs in particular for his dedication to getting it tidied up and running more efficiently.

One of the key benefits of the web based database is that we now have a comprehensive list of all the umpires in our Association, this is the first time this has happened. Currently there are over 450 umpires registered as members of the Association.

We have had a few less disciplinary incidents during this year and I believe that the Association's stance on this has been the reason why there have been less this year than last. We hope that by continuing this fairly tough stance we will reduce these even further

I wish you all well for the coming season.

Neil Cherrill
President HBHUA

Treasurers Report for Annual General Meeting held 20th June 2008

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

The General Account, which is used solely for members of the association, has made an excess of income over expenditure of £ 2,176. We had a good response to our initial mailing to the members, which has led to an increase of membership subscriptions of £1,200 (a 38% increase on last year). This is mainly due to the hard work that Rob Youngs put into chasing everybody up.

Level One Courses: This year we ran quite a few courses, but due to the fact that we had some stock of the Level One course material, we have made a surplus of £1,613; this is particularly due to the fact that we have now received the money from the Level One course I mentioned last year that was run at West Herts., we also continued to have stock of the level 1 packs, so the expenditure has been incurred in previous periods.

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.

We again had a slight deficit, this was mainly due to the fact that the £900 contingency I put into last years accounts did not cover everybody's expenses, could I please ask that expenses are claimed in a more timely manner as it does help very much in the complying these accounts

Despite me recommending that clubs had a "free" year the year before last year we billed the clubs £25.00 per umpire used out of the pool, some clubs have not paid this nor last years, could I please ask you to chase your Club's Treasurers

Again cannot pay anybody's expenses unless they have been entered onto the website and you have then pressed the claimed button; if you do not wish to claim the expenses, you can then make a donation to the association, which then in effect claims the expenses for you.

Recommendations:

I am proposing the following:

1. The membership should remain at £15 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 fee goes up to ~~£80.00~~ per side that uses the neutral pool, this is to help my last recommendation.
3. The mileage rate has been ~~17.5p~~ ^{£100.00} per mile for a couple of years and with the price of fuel so high at the moment, I am recommending that we increase the mileage rate to ~~20p~~ per mile, this will bring it in line with the ERHUA.

Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association
Income and Expenditure Account
For the Year Ending 30th April 2008

General Account	2007/2008	2006/2007
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	4,313	3,113
Interest	29	43
	<u>4,342</u>	<u>3,156</u>
Expenditure		
Insurance	255	199
Officers Expenses	776	670
E.H.A.Rule Books		763
AGM Expenses	112	172
Website Expenditure	1,023	3,798
Excess of Income over Expenditure	2,176	(2,445)
	<u>4,342</u>	<u>3,156</u>
 Level One Courses		
Income	2,741	3,520
Expenditure	1,128	2,803
	<u>1,613</u>	<u>717</u>
 Neutral Umpires Pool Account		
Club Subscriptions	400	325
Expenses Paid	858	1,269
Website Expenditure		2,052
Excess Expenditure to Income	(458)	(2,996)

Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association
Balance Sheet
As at 30th April 2008

	2008 £	2007 £
Balance for Year		
General Account	3,328	1,152
Level One Courses	3,028	1,415
Neutral Pool Account	<u>375</u>	<u>833</u>
	6,731	3,400
Represented by:		
Cash at Bank		
Current Account	1,358	2,959
BPA Account	<u>5,453</u>	<u>1,923</u>
	6,811	4,883
Debtors	625	325
Creditors	<u>705</u>	<u>1,808</u>
	6,731	3,400

N. Cherrill

N.Cherrill

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 2008 are in accordance herewith.

A.P. Cook A.P. Cook

1st June 2008

Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association
Creditors and Debtors
As at 30th April 2008

Debtors	£
Bedford HC	50
Berkhamsted HC	75
Blueharts HC	50
Broxbourne HC	100
Hertford HC	50
Letchworth HC	125
Shefford & Sandy HC	50
Stevenage HC	50
Vauxhall HC	75
	<hr/>
	625
 Creditors	
 Contingency	450
BHHUA	255
	<hr/>
	705

Chief Coach/Chair of Selectors Report AGM June 2008

After taking on this role last summer I was not sure how I wanted to approach the job or really what was wanted of me. The season was almost half over before I really knew what I needed to do, having seen a couple of games and got my ear bent on more than one occasion about standards, I realised that although we were making appointments and the matches were being umpired we had no idea what was actually going on in the games.

At this point I spoke to Neil and told him I felt we needed to evaluate the umpires pool and also if possible start to get some coaching started as most of the pool umpires had not seen or received any coaching for quite a number of years. This is no ones fault as such, we have just not had the resources, we have put what limited personnel we have had into pushing forward our level 1 program.

I started the process of assessments pre xmas as I was injured and therefore unable to umpire, after having done 3 games in 1 day I realised that this process could not be done around my own umpiring and having spoken to the East association it was agreed that to help the development both for HBHUA and for forward progression then to ERHUA I would not umpire after xmas and my club would not be penalised for my non availability.

I am now going to be a little bit boring here as I am going to be helping Mike with the appointments for next season (unless as I said earlier anyone else wants a job) and I am going to do the cry offs a little history.

So down to basics, last season we used for Saturday appointments 37 different umpires, sounds good I know a healthy pool lots of umpires I hear people say, but when broken down it is not quite so clear. 4 of that number are East umpires and helped out, 7 of that number were only appointed on 1 occasion, 5 of this number are part time umpires, players who umpire when at home or within county every other week or when they can. This brings the number of full time umpires available last season to 21.

We could have and did on one occasion need 26 and that is a similar scenario for this season, with a possible 24 needed if all at home. We were also providing to 5 ladies East Div 2 sides, but that was extra and not a league mandate, so as you can see we are still not rich in resources.

Having spoken to several clubs I know there are some who have several pool umpires and don't actually need to provide them and at present some who don't have enough pool umpires, we will as an association shortly be asking the clubs to provide there named umpires for the season. The emphasis is on named umpires we will no longer be allowing clubs to just be put on the website as Letchworth or Bishop Stortford to supply, but the actual umpire who is nominated to do the game, this means that we know the umpire being appointed is capable of doing the game they are going to do and not just 'joe bloggs' turning up.

There will be leeway for 'part time' umpires as long as we have enough notification of availability and have enough bodies to do the games necessary. If however there is a shortage for whatever reason the clubs maybe asked to provide an alternate to there allotted pool umpire to cover games and we will re-arrange appointments if needed.

This is an on going project and hopefully will be finalised in the next few weeks so that the clubs can be made aware of there obligations and how we intend to enforce them.

Returning to where I was earlier, I have actually managed to watch/assess/coach a number of the pool umpires in the second half of last season, 21 I believe was the number and some saw me on several occasions and for that I do apologise. We have quite a large differential in the standard in the pool, which in it self is not a problem as there is a varied range of games to cover and some of our more senior and experienced umpires may find doing a ladies Div 2 South game somewhat less of a challenge to them compared to others (no disrespect intended to the ladies).

As part of this assessment task I also talked to the clubs at the same time and was pleasantly surprised at the quite positive feedback I got back from them, there was the usual gripes about perceived poor decisions but on the whole the general consensus was that we were getting the right umpires to the right games and they were doing there best and making usually a good job of it, so I would like to extend a thank you to all the umpires who have done pool games this season and the job they have done. There is still work to be done and I plan to try and get myself and hopefully some of our senior members to come along to games and help raise the standards for all of us, thus enabling HBHUA to be in a position to put forward names to ERHUA for looking at for possible promotion to regional umpiring.

The other end of this equation is those just starting out on there umpiring career, I would like to take this opportunity to point to the sterling work that Brian Arnsby & Dan Heydon do in running the level 1 side of the association. They are most ably supported by David Blowers an umpire of distinction within this association and at higher levels also, who has given very generously of his time and experience to guide and assess our new recruits, sometimes not the easiest of tasks, but he has done this with good grace and humour and I would personally like to thank him.

As was put on the website I have started to try and help move along the mountain of level 1 watching by offering our services during the summer league season, we have had a fairly good response to this offer and Neil and myself have watched a number so far, most have been in need of a bit of work but are progressing to a point that they will be joining the ranks of level 1 this summer. There was an exception which Neil and I saw on Tuesday and it make the effort rewarding when along comes a lady umpire who 10 mins into her game and just as I had finished my debrief of the previous watching, Neil walks past me ask if I would like a beer and says he has seen enough already (it was not quite as flippant as that). We did watch the whole game and it was a joy, needless to say it was a pass.

We are also coaching and let anyone know if they are umpiring summer hockey we are willing within reason to come and see them.

Lastly just a quick point on Level 2, I get asked quite often how do I get that, the easy answer is join the pool, put in your games and effort and we will help as much as possible, when we feel you are ready then we will put you forward, we have a number on the development panel at present and from what I have been told 2 of them are ready and will probably earn there promotion in the coming season, I wish them good luck.

Iain Fletcher

NON LEAGUE APPOINTMENT SECRETARY REPORT **HBHUA AGM 2008**

Another season done and dusted, appointments for this season fell to an all time low. Not due to anything we did not do, but for some reason our teams fell early in their respective competitions or were drawn to play out of our region.

The following games were appointed to Men's 3 HA Cup, 2 HA Vase, 6 Vets & 1 Vintage game, Ladies were 3 HA Trophy.

That is 30 umpires to appoint which should be a very easy task even for someone as disorganised as myself. It took however nearly 100 e-mails and calls to appoint those games, some due to late notice on games, some down to my own incompetence, but the vast majority were due to a lack of availability being notified to us.

This meant as usual the same people ended up doing the games and for this I am very grateful.

We are going to change the way and use of Non League appointments, Mike as he has indicated is taking on the role of Non League appointments, but this can only work if we all co-operate with him and indicate our availability even if it is NO.

I will still be involved in this area in my other capacity as Chair of Selectors and Chief Coach unless anyone else fancies the role, in doing the cry offs and liaising with Mike as to who I would like to see on various games so that we can get more watchings and coaching done, Sunday's are invariably the best time for this during the season.

I have enjoyed my years in this position and thank Mike for his decision to take it on with the Saturday appointments.

Iain Fletcher

Level 1 Report

During the past year there have been 3 courses held with approximately 50 candidates at St Albans, Letchworth & Bishops Stortford with a 98.5 success rate.

Some have been assessed while others are waiting to be seen at the various Summer league matches.

I would like to thank those who went out in all weathers to carry out the assessments - namely Iain, Brian, Neil and Dave Blowers who has done the majority for us. Some of these assessments have been reassessments due to the member being a Level 1 but England Hockey having no record of them.

In the future there are two courses in July one on the 6th @ Rickmansworth where there are only a few places and the other on the 13th @ St Albans which is full. If any club has a number of candidates please contact me and we can set up a course, ideally we would want a minimum of 10 and with sufficient notice more could be found from other clubs.

Finally I would also like to thank Peter Simmons, the Herts HDO, who has helped greatly in promoting and co-ordinating courses as well as supporting with the young umpires. At the recent East Mini Festival weekend @ Harlestone Herts & Beds supplied more junior umpires than any other East county