



Herts & Beds Hockey Umpiring Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 21 June 2013 at 8:00pm

Letchworth Hockey Club
Whitethorn Lane, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 2DN

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting (see HBHUA website)
3. Matters arising
4. Reports:
 - a. President
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Membership Secretary
 - d. Appointments Secretary
 - e. Selection and Coaching
 - f. Level 1
5. Umpire Grading
6. Awards:
 - a. Rhoda Gains Award
 - b. President's Award
7. Election of Officers
8. 'The Way Forward'
9. Any Other Business



Herts & Beds Hockey Umpiring Association

Office Bearers 2013 – 2014

Position:

President
Treasurer
Secretary
Appointments Secretary
Head Coach
Chair of Selectors
Club Liaison Officer
Level 1 Co-ordinator
Herts Representative
Beds Representative
Membership Secretary
Webmaster
Website Co-ordinator
ERHUA Representative

Nominee:

Neil Cherrill
Derek Green
Dougie Closs
Iain Fletcher
Don Ward
Neil Cherrill
Andy Larkin
Dan Heydon
VACANT
VACANT
Lorraine Roberts
Rob Youngs
Julie Rees
Graham King



Herts & Beds Hockey Umpiring Association



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 21 June 2013 - Letchworth Hockey Club
Whitethorn Lane, Letchworth

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Club
Derek Coenen	MBDA.
Tony Sampson	Blunhaha
Torani Blakerill	Vauxhall Chikern
Andy Larkin	WEST HERTS.
Brown Symmond Hall	BEDFORD
Jeremy Pearce	CHESHAM
JAMES WALLS	LUTON TOWN
CHRIS RYAN	"
GARRY NEWMAN	"
IAN JACKSON	STEVENAGE
DAVID HAMID	—
QUENTIN KEELING	ST ALBANS
COLIN MEADOWS	BROXBORNE
JAN SLEEDON	BEDFORD
HARRIS MYR	VAUXHALL HC.
NEIL CHERRILL	PRESIDENT
MORRIS CHERRILL	MEMBERSHIP SEC
DOUGLAS GROSS	SECRETARY



Herts & Beds Hockey Umpiring Association

Secretary
Dougie Closs
33 Bedford Road
Hitchin
Herts
SG5 2TP

President
Neil Cherrill
9 Swasedale Road
Luton
Beds
LU3 2UB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Letchworth Hockey Club on Friday 21 June 2013.

The meeting opened with a minute's applause in memory of Mike Brown, the former Treasurer, who had sadly passed away last year.

1. Apologies for absence

Berl Goldbart, Richard Middleditch, Colin Harker, Peter Joyce, David Earl, Alan Pilgrim, Rachel Grainger, Esther Strous, Henry Wanchoo, Jim Jarrett, Mike Tomkys, James Holderness, Lesley Larkin, Chris Riley, David Chatterjee, Mhairi Bullock, Tim Alberty, Carole Pomfret, Amanda Deighton, Amanda Lawrence, Tim Eyton-Jones, Bud Carthy, Don Ward, James Bates, Penny Lawrence, Peter Karmali, Vanessa Porter, Tom Godfrey, Sue Owen, Michele Chapman, Tricia Murphy, Helen Savage, Charlie Michie, Jackie O'Sullivan, Lorraine Ellis, Peter Halliday, Tony Haysom, Ray Blaxill, Graham Sparrey, Roger Dear, Graham King, Alison Clifton, Mick Slatter, Peter Goulton, Ian Noble, Gary Jones, Bill Felton, Russell Nutter, Julie Rees.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

These minutes were available on the website as a download, and a copy was made available at the meeting.

These were passed as a true and correct record, proposed by Andrew Larkin and seconded by Rob Youngs.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

4. Reports

The reports from the President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Appointments Secretary, Chief Coach, and Level 1 Co-Ordinator are attached in .pdf format.

David Eggleton raised the question of whether the HBHUA website had the facility to allow Pool umpires to provide ratings and feedback on club behaviour and hospitality. This system was in place in the West, and was working well. David also suggested that an award could be presented to the best club at the end of the season.

Rob Youngs, webmaster, agreed to look into this further.

A number of members raised their concerns about the problems getting Level 1 probationer umpires' practical assessments completed. Neil Cherrill and Iain Fletcher reiterated that the various summer leagues would be a perfect opportunity. It was agreed that this information would be communicated to the membership again, through various mediums.

5. Umpire Grading

Iain Fletcher summarised the grading system again. The grading on the system shows the highest level at which HBHUA are happy for the umpire to be umpiring. If any umpire or club feel that an umpire is graded too lowly, then HBHUA will undertake to watch any umpire with a view to changing their grade within the system.

Andy Webster then pointed out that a number of umpires were graded at Mens 4SW, when their assessments stated that they should think of progressing to Pool level. Iain Fletcher confirmed that this was owing to a system 'quirk' which meant that his inbox was jammed up with mail about umpires who should have been putting their availability in, when it was not relevant. It was easier to grade people at Mens 4SW to prevent this.

Rob Youngs, webmaster, agreed to look into this further.

6. Awards

Dougie Closs stated that the committee had had a discussion about the awards at the previous committee meeting, because it was felt that the original reason for the awards had been lost in the mists of time. He confirmed that, after much discussion, it was agreed that the Rhoda Gains Award would be given to a club or club member who had assisted umpiring, and the umpiring association, greatly over the season. The President's Award would be given to an umpire who had progressed in their umpiring standards, as well as those who had given something back to the association – either in an official or unofficial capacity.

Dougie then announced that the winners of the awards would be:

Rhoda Gains Award

Alison Clifton (Bishops Stortford HC)

President's Award

Graham King (Neutral Pool)

Dougie also stated that the committee had discussed the possibility of introducing an award in the memory of the late treasurer, Mike Brown. It was still in the early stage of discussions but would probably be in the form of a discretionary bursary to support the development of young umpires. Further details would be provided through the usual communication channels as soon as it became available.

Barry Smith (HBHUA umpire and East Region Umpiring Association Chairman) then presented awards for umpiring 150 games in the East Region to Jeremy Pearce, and for umpiring 100 games to Neil Cherrill. Both received a hearty round of applause from all members present.

7. Election of Officers

The committee had circulated, prior to the meeting, its proposed officer bearers for the following season. Those present agreed to these proposals *nem con*.

Dan Heydon confirmed that he was happy to stand as the Beds representative once again. David Eggleton indicated his willingness to fill the post of Herts representative. Both were nominated by Neil Cherrill and seconded by Iain Fletcher. No other nominations were received and those present, on a show of hands, accepted these nominations.

Neil Cherrill was also very pleased to confirm that Simon Holloway had agreed to instigate the HBHUA Young Umpire Development programme as its co-ordinator. This is a tremendous step forward for the organisation. Barry Smith suggested that Simon contact Paul Watts at ERHUA for assistance.

8. 'The Way Forward'

Neil Cherrill confirmed that there had been many steps forward for the association this year, compared to the position that it found itself at this time last year. The additional members of the committee had settled in well to their new positions, and were making progress in a number of areas. The appointment of a Young Umpire Development Co-Ordinator represented a huge step forward for the association, and Neil called upon all members to support this (amongst other) initiatives.

Barry Smith stated that the best example of how the association was progressing was by observing the fact that those members of the committee who had been elected last year had volunteered to continue in post for the following season. None had been disheartened by their experience, and were all keen to continue the drive forward.

9. Any Other Business

Andy Webster asked what the association's stance was on teams providing two umpires for home games in an often reciprocal manner. He felt that the standards of umpiring were deteriorating as a result – not through bias, but through the familiarity of umpiring club mates. Iain Fletcher confirmed that the association supported the England Hockey stance that each club should provide an umpire for each game. He did acknowledge that this can be problematic from a logistical sense, and that it is easier to provide two home umpires for most clubs. It was agreed that the HBHUA website would reinforce the England Hockey rules that club should provide an umpire for each of their teams' away games.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9:30pm, with Neil Cherrill thanking everyone who had attended.

President's address

This has been my seventh year as president and to say the least this has been another difficult Season. It is with deep regret that I have to say that Mike Brown passed away in August of last year and as a result we lost our long time Treasurer. I would like to propose that we have a round of applause for Mike to commemorate his life and the work that he did for the Association.

Thank you.

Last year we tabled a document to the AGM and I am pleased to say that it has brought a number of new faces to the Committee which has seen us take some small steps forward. We now have a new Secretary who has done a sterling job in keeping the committee focused. My thanks go to Dougie Closs for his hard work during this difficult year. Andy Larkin has taken on the position of Club Liaison officer and we have made some steps forward on this front. Andy will be happy to hear any constructive comments on how we could improve on this. Don Ward (Coaching), Graham King (Rep to East umpires) and Julie Rees (website support) have also joined the committee. My thanks also to the rest of the committee for their continued support not the least our Membership Secretary Loraine Cherrill (Nee Roberts) and Rob Youngs for his assistance in keeping the website up to date.

The Neutral pool and KO appointment have operated with the same band of willing and dedicated people and my sincere thanks once again to Iain Fletcher for his dedication to the cause. Iain has put a lot of effort into the coaching of umpires in the past but has had to take a step back from this due to work pressures. Don Ward has very capably picked up the baton in this regard and I thank him for his efforts this year.

We have also run a number of level one courses which still result in too few people finding their way to the practical assessment and even fewer into our neutral scheme. This aspect of the Association is a cause of greatest concern to us. Indeed this should also be a concern to the clubs that are playing in the leagues that require neutral appointments. If we are unable to appoint then those clubs will not be able to play in the league. My thanks go to Dan Heydon for his work in this area.

Just to remind you that the RESPECT campaign is still in force so if there are any incidents that require our assistance then please feel free to let us know. We will of course deal with them on an urgent basis. There have not been any significant issues that the committee has had to deal with this year.

Hopefully this season will see the third pre-season tournament at Bishop's Stortford HC as last years' tournament was cancelled as the pitches at the college were being relaid.

I wish you well for the coming season.

Neil Cherrill

Hon President HBHUA

HBHUA Treasurers Report for year ending 30th April 2013

This is the first Treasurers report since the sad and untimely death of Mike Brown. Thanks to Mike's prudence as Treasurer, the HBHUA finances are in very good shape. Indeed One might argue that we have more funds in the association that we really need and to this end we have proposed to make available a number of Bursaries to help provide financial support to development of young umpires.

In arriving at an understanding (without Mike) of the association's finances, it has become apparent that an administrative error was made by Mike in compiling the Balance Sheet for the accounts prepared for the 2011 AGM. Upon reviewing the accounts for 2010 and 2011, it is clear that the 2009 Balances were carried forward in error, rather than the 2010 Balances (See attached extracts). Regrettably Mike is no longer around to explain his subsequent actions but it would appear that in recognition of the fact that the association's cash in the Bank was significantly in excess of that which the 2011 Balance sheet could substantiate, we can only assume that Mike allowed a relatively large value to accumulate against creditors, in order to Balance the accounts. This meant that in the 2012 accounts the accrual against creditors had reached £3625, which having reviewed the expenditure during 2013, has not been realised. Hence the effect of the error from 2011 means we have decided to recognise that the majority of this provision is no longer justified and should be recognised in the accounts as an accumulated surplus. In preparing the 2013 accounts, we have rectified the error from 2011, with the effect that we have reversed the excessive provision by adding £3914 to the accumulated surplus. In consequence the apparent surplus identified in the 2013 accounts amounts to £7279. The accounts retain a provision of £1000 against creditors as there are a number of expenses which at 30th April 2013 had not been settled.

I want to emphasise that there is absolutely no suggestion that the error has had any impact on the actual finances of the association, rather the cash in the Bank remains at the level it should. This correction merely recognises that the association has a greater surplus than had previously been recognised in the accounts.

The General account

This is used for the members funds and has made a surplus for the year of £3256, which when the exceptional provision of £3914 is taken into account, means that the accounts recognise a total surplus for the year of £7170.

The Level 1 Course account

As is the association's objective, the cost and revenue from running Level one training courses is broadly in balance for the year, with the accounts showing a £5 surplus.

Neutral Pool Scheme

This is used to hold the fees charged to clubs who subscribe to the Neutral Pool and to fund the expenses incurred by the Pool umpires. 50% of the expenses associated with the maintenance and improvements to the web site made during the year have also been allocated to this account, which results in a small surplus of £104 for the year. Having reviewed the expense claims which remain outstanding to be settled relating to expenses incurred in support of the 2012/2013 season, it is clear that the majority of these expenses are attributable to the neutral pool. However the provision

remains with the General account and given the sound financial health of the association overall there is no concern that this scheme is being subsidised by the members.

Since this is the first year that the association has had to prepare accounts without the advantage of being able to confer with Mike, it is felt prudent to retain for the coming season 2013/14 the member's fees at £15 and the club fees at £270. Mileage expenses for the coming season should be increased to 26p per mile in line with the Hockey Association guidelines.

Neil Cherrill (Acting Treasurer)

Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association
Income and Expenditure Account
Year ending 30th April 2013

	2011/2012	2012/2013
General Account		
Income		
Subscriptions	4694	6,600
Interest	5	5
	4699	6,605
Expenditure		
Insurance	320	320
Officer's Expenses	400	322
Kit	250	132
Rule Books		1,250
Website Expenditure	340	1,151
Excess/Deficit	3389	3,431
	4699	6,605
Level 1 Courses		
Income	1250	2,215
Expenditure	835	2,210
	415	5
Neutral Pool Account		
Club Subs	2160	3,780
Expenses Paid	1827	3,315
Website expenditure	340	1,151
Excess/Deficit	-7	-686

Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Hockey Umpires Association
 Balance Sheet
 As At 30th April 2013

	2012	2013
Balance for Year		
General Account	14,276	18,055
Level 1 Courses	6,469	6,474
Neutral Pool Account	-1,239	-574
	<u>19,506</u>	<u>23,955</u>
Represented by		
Cash at Bank		
Current Account	5,895	17,369
BPA Account	17,236	10,505
	<u>23,131</u>	<u>27,874</u>
Debtors		
Creditors	3,625	3,919
	<u>19,506</u>	<u>23,955</u>

HBHUA Membership Report

2012/2013

We have 416 paid up members.

This is an increase of 127 members on last year (2011/2012)

Invoices for the 2013/14 season will be issued in early September.

Please ensure contact details of your club ULO and Treasurer are up to date on the website as we use these details to email the invoice.

We really appreciate your help to check the details on the invoice, amend as necessary, highlighting any changes and return with your payment.

Loraine Cherrill

Membership Secretary

21 June 2013

Appointments Secretary report 2012-13

Another season passes and the association has just about managed to fulfil its obligation. The bare facts for those who are interested are that we have appointed 366 umpires this season on Saturdays and 59 appointments on Sunday this was broken down into 48 cup games and 11 junior events.

We had no promotions to region this season, but we did gain later in the season a familiar face in the return of David Eggleton who although returning to the East pool did turn out on numerous occasions for HBHUA

We as an association are beginning to struggle in the neutral pool with a lack of suitable senior umpires, this problem will possibly only get worse next season.

Having looked at the tables for teams next season we will have 2 teams in Div 1 & 6 teams in Div 2S in the mens, on the ladies side we will have 3 teams again in ladies Div 1 S, these are the divisions I need to cover, I do however depending on clubs providing umpires into the pool cover lower levels, Div 3S mens and now 2 different divisions for the ladies Div 2 NW where we will have 2 HBHUA teams and Div 2 Central where there will be 1 team who usually have a neutral umpire for their games within HBHUA.

I would at this point like to congratulate Broxbourne ladies who after several years of last game heartbreak finally made it to the Premier division.

The supply to the pool this year will be 13 from the clubs on a compulsory basis, as I said we could in theory end up with 11 home games I know very unlikely, but 8 home games is a real possibility and that means 16 umpires !!, I have probably 2 neutrals, I had 3 last years.

We are woefully under staffed in the pool and I may need to be looking to the East and possibly Essex to cover some games near their borders.

We struggled slightly early season with no Bishop Stortford tournament and although a fair few attend an event at Letchworth it was not quite the same, I have not as such had any feedback from Stortford so have to assume that the event has been lost. I am not certain but believe Letchworth are holding their own club weekend so they will not be running a pre season event either.

Something for all to ponder the pool is shrinking and at some point we will face a dry well, unfortunately players are wanting to continue playing and not umpire and the days of being an 'UMPIRE' seem to have passed, not sure where this goes but it will not be long before we as an association are not able to fulfil our obligation to supply neutral umpires.

Just to wish everyone a restful summer and see everyone next season (92 days I believe)

Chief Coach Report 2012-13

This will be a disappointingly brief report as I have not been able to get myself out at all last season, apart from a couple of sessions after my games with people and 2 level 1 watching's.

I would like to apologise to all for my lack of drive and enthusiasm this past season, but with the role I have taken on at work I am lucky if I see daylight nevermind hockey.

Don Ward has done an outstanding job of level 1 assessments and coaching this past season and I would like to thank him for being a bit of lone warrior in this aspect but doing a sterling job, I hope not this coming season but maybe next to devote myself to coaching/assessing on a full time basis when my work situation allows.

I would like to take this opportunity to say we have put forward Andy Webster & Chris Ryan to be considered by ERHUA for promotion.

I want to wish my successor all the best in their new role and thank those who have supported me over the last years.

Iain Fletcher

Chief Coach

Herts & Beds Hockey Umpires Association

Level I Report

During the past year there have been four courses held at Bedford, West Herts, Luton and Berkhamsted with over sixty candidates all of whom attained the pass mark of 60 (66.67%), they now have two years to do their practise matches before asking to be assessed, though a great number will lose interest and give up.

Some will be keen like those who were on last year's courses and have already been assessed and passed. In all 35 probationers have been assessed and passed. Thanks go to Don Ward, who has co-ordinated this important part of the qualification as well as doing the majority of assessments, together with other members who have assisted him.

Looking forward to next year we have already been notified that certain club's wish to host a course and we are going to set dates at venues around Herts and Beds rather than be at Clubs as when courses are wanted and could be at clubs close to each other within a few weeks.

The first is to be held on Sunday 4th August at Shefford & Sandy starting @ 09.30. We would also hope there would be a volunteer from the host club to help mark the exam, it was tried last year and worked well. If your club wants a course let us know.