

Report of the NHUA to the NHA AGM 12/06/18.

Umpire appointments were made to all but 6 Women's Div 1 games where the home team provided an umpire. There continues to be a shortage of Women's Panel umpires and as a result many appointments were only filled by umpires doing two games, including those from the Men's Panel. After an initial period when there were times when there were no reserves, recruitment onto the Men's Panel has been quite successful with 8 new L2 umpires and two more NYUPL umpires moving to the North. However, although 2 new L2 umpires have joined the Ladies Panel they have not been able to offer much availability.

Appointments have been made to the EH Tier Competitions however, there are only a very limited number of umpires available on a Sunday and thus in the earlier rounds appointments have devolved to the Counties.

This season difficulties have also arisen with the number of rearranged games resulting from bad weather, but the umpires have responded very well.

Appointments were made to the Men's County Championships and also to the Women's Cock of the North, although in the case of the latter the late withdrawal of one of the teams and the general poor standard of hockey raises questions over the viability of appointing to this event on the same scale. In contrast the standard of much of the hockey at the Men's over 45 Master's event was good and provided an excellent opportunity to coach umpires who could also gain from the experience of umpiring with more senior colleagues.

The Indoor Committee appointed to all the North Indoor events.

Unfortunately there have been few new umpire recruits and a limited number of coaches, assessors and umpire managers. The Committee is currently working on protocols and procedures to bring them more in line with the outdoor ones.

RYUAG has also appointed to all their events although the lack of availability mid-week has sometimes meant that other umpires have had to be used. The IN2 hockey was very successful with many young umpires receiving support from Coaches and Mentors. It is hoped to build upon all this next year.

The Treasurer reports that the NHUA should break even this season and therefore proposed that there should be no change in the current fees.

Following discussion on the GDPR and having considered information from all sources it was decided that there was no need to subscribe to the Website update advocated by Tex solutions. Instead the following course of action was agreed.

1. Advise all members of the data held by the NHUA and who is entitled to see it and request their permission to continue to do so.
2. Ensure that all stored locally data is encrypted.
3. Require all those who hold data on their personal computers to delete it.
4. Remind teams that their feedback comments may now be viewed by an umpire on request.

The format of the NHUA AGM has been changed to encourage more members to attend. The meeting is to be held on Saturday 9th June, will be preceded by a Fitness test and after lunch, followed by a Forum led by Lee Barron and Gemma Jones building on the success of the Facebook group discussion of video footage of umpiring decisions.

The NHUA has improved communication with members through Facebook and Twitter.

Whilst the radio replacement programme is working well the purchase of two three way radio sets has brought an added dimension to coaching.

AKB reported on the work of the group, of which she is a member, on the EHL restructuring.

The group is advancing the vision of One Body to which all umpires would belong. Roles and responsibilities that can be carried out centrally by a

'Council' / 'Board' with close links to the EH Board have been identified thus removing the duplication that currently exists and releasing volunteer time.

This will be supported by a new Web system for which tenders have recently been requested.

The key deliveries are:

1. Service the National Prem and Div 1 Leagues with the highest quality of umpires.
2. Support the recruitment and development of Club Umpires.
3. Facilitate the progression of umpires between the two above.

Two or three possible structures will be presented at the HUA Conference at Lee Valley on 29th July for County Reps to consider.

A sub group, of which AKB is a member, has also been set up to address the more immediate issue of appointments of umpires within the new structure.

It would seem that the current NPUA feels that it will only appoint to the Prem/Div 1 Leagues.

Research conducted by AKB suggests that whilst the current NPUA Men's B Panel umpires will be able to serve the new Regional Conferences with only a limited input from the Regions the opposite is the case with regard to the Women's B Panel umpires few of whom will be available. Whether the shortfall will be made up from the Men's panel is questionable. There is also the added complication that the numbers of umpires are distributed unevenly and consequently so will the numbers of L3 umpires available for appointment on a weekly basis. Thus, the impact on Regional appointments will differ between the Men's and Women's Leagues and vary on a weekly basis.

All the above suggests that the North Leagues need to be considering the impact of the restructuring and whether it will require changes to the North League structure.

NHUA.