

NORTH HOCKEY UMPIRING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF 19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2019
AT THE HOLIDAY INN, WAKEFIELD 11:30AM

Present: John Dixon, Tony Shutt, Tom McCabe, Steve Smith, Peter Maclellan, Andrew Nix, Brian Linfield, Gemma Jones, Chris Reece, Dik Skippings, Chris Regan, Jayne Evans, Simon Allen, Sam Williams, Chris Bale, James Cowden, Jeremy Hall, M Lakinski, Ian Henderson, Adursh Ruparelia, Annette K Badger, Christine Renshaw, Neil McInnes, Peter Randall, Chris Blogg, Julie Blogg, Chris Ambrose, Darran Illidge, Malcolm Barnes (31).

1. President's Welcome

AKB opened the AGM with a minute's silence in respect for following NHUA people who have passed away since the last AGM: Chris Todd, Steve Hamblett, Ken Stephenson, Dr Peter Gardner, and Malcolm Shackleton.

Presidents Address:

I would like to begin by congratulating Chris Reece on becoming EH Vice President. I know that Chris is held in very high regard and he has helped to raise the profile of the NHUA outside the region; we are regarded as a very dynamic and forward-looking Association.

This year has been even more challenging than previous years as a result of the impact of the restructuring of the National League when it became very apparent, back in 2018, that there would be insufficient umpires in the NPUA to service the League, particularly on the Women's side. The expansion of the Conference Leagues presented an opportunity for our Regional umpires and thus, the NPUA C Panel was created. This meant that we had to devote our limited resources to helping those of our umpires who had the potential and wished to progress to achieve their aims. In addition, we were mindful of the need develop our B Panel umpires, who had the potential to move up to the A Panel.

An extra workload was also placed on Brian and me as it was appreciated that the NPUA did not have the resources to assess all the Regional C Panel Candidates. Thus, it was agreed that cross regional assessments would be undertaken and so towards the end of the season we were busy assessing Candidates from the Midlands.

In addition the NPUA opened up a second window for the nomination of young umpires to the NYUDP at Christmas and in part this was also driven by the age at which the umpires are now being appointed to top National and International games – the Rio Olympic final was umpired by the Belgian, Laurine DeForge who was 24. Speed of action – both body and mind – is critical and the development of young umpires is a priority. Obviously, they may lack some of the management skills of our more mature members who are therefore somewhat puzzled by such youthful advancement, but this progress is a function of appreciating how the potential of the umpire can best be harnessed and developed.

I am pleased to be able to say that our umpires have enjoyed considerable success – more of that later. However, some of you may feel that you have been rather neglected this season, for which I'm sorry, but that has been a result of our limited manpower and we hope to redress it next season.

In the meantime, whilst all this was going on you continued to deliver the high standard of umpiring for which we are recognised and which has of course been enhanced by our very smart appearance in new shirts courtesy of our sponsors, Future Print. Again, you have also shown great patience,

affability and flexibility towards the appointments to the North Leagues, for which I extend a big thank you.

I would also like to thank Jayne Smith who, for several years has looked after the Women's B and then A Panels and who is stepping down due to other commitments. Chris Reagan has kindly agreed to take over the role whilst on the men's side Tom and Brian have decided to switch caps.

Finally, I would like to thank, on your behalf, all the members of the Management Committee, under the Chair of Brian, and the Sub Committees who have worked hard throughout the year to support you, to serve your interests and to ensure that the NHUA is in a very good shape to meet whatever challenges lie ahead.

2. Apologies received from:

Amanda Parker JP, DL, Mike Talbot, Mike Wynne, Clare Barwood, Mike Trubshaw, Mark Kendrick, Stephen Ball, Eric Dickinson, Peter Jelley, Matty Mathuru, Hamish Jamson, Sonia Allen, Simon Little, Steve Drage, Gill Lord, Zak Longstaff, Rob Abbot, Bob Ashton, Robert Brownbridge, David Ellcock, Mark Davidson, Richard Wilson, David Haynes, Jerry Cohen, Andie Cartin, Jean Hughes, Sue Howard, Lee Baron, Dan Barstow, Greg Wines, Cate Adamson, Mark Wilkie, Nicky Gomersahl, David Wright, Eunice Ellison. (32)

3. Minutes of the 18th AGM held 9th June 2018 and matters arising

The minutes, which had been posted on the NHUA website prior to the AGM for members to digest, and were proposed as a true record by Tony Shutt seconder by Julie Blogg and approved unanimously by those present and signed by the Chair of MC.

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports: BL recorded that all of the MC reports have been posted on the website prior to this meeting and have been circulated by email.

4.1 Management Committee: BL I will deliberately keep this short as all minutes from our meeting have been published on the website so you will all be aware of the issues and work we have dealt with over the past 12 months.

This has been a very busy year with your MC engaged heavily in the potential transformation of umpiring within England and the setting up of the new leagues and NPUA C panel. My personal thanks to Nettie for all the hard work and time she has put into this over the last 12 months. You will hear a lot more about this in the presentations after the AGM.

You all have the new shirts now and many thanks to Future Print Leeds for all the sponsorship without which this would not have been possible. Big thanks also to Chris Blogg for identifying the sponsor. Only 1 umpire refused to pay the £12 requested for the blue social shirt. I am aware a couple of people are still waiting for a shirt to be replaced and others for the new kit to be put on the NHUA webshop. I will be dealing with this very shortly.

You will see that we have not sought nominations for Vice President this year. This is because Hockey at present has its own Brexit type uncertainties that is making it very difficult to forward plan. Hopefully you all know that roadshows are planned to update us on the resolution put to the 2017 England Hockey AGM (26 June – Harrogate - 27 June – Warwick – 1 July – Taunton – 9 July – Caterham – 10 July – London central - 11 July – Manchester – 16 July – Reading - 17 July – Cambridge 16 Sept – St Albans -30 Sept – Sheffield – all 7.30pm-9.30pm) at these events EH will share the results of the subsequent research and consultations. These roadshows will allow clubs, associations and leagues to hear the recommendations of the AGM Resolution Working Group in good time before the 2020 England Hockey AGM where the decision to implement will be put to the membership. We have very little knowledge on this so far or a timeline. Perhaps Mr Elworthy can give us some clues in his presentation after the AGM! MC's view is that NHUA as a body will cease to exist in its current form but will evolve under EH into a new organisation that delivers the

vision “To create a single body responsible for umpiring in England, engaging all current umpiring associations, to enable a unified approach to appointing, recruitment, promotion and development of umpiring in England.”

It is my intention to call an EGM or Association meeting once we hear what the plans and proposed timescales are. This will enable you the membership to decide the way forward and put the people you want in place to lead the transformation. This may also require a tweak to our constitution and elections, hence why the EGM may be required to enable postal voting for the elections if required. Even with all this planning this will of course all hang on the EH proposal for reform being passed at the EH AGM in 2020.

4.1 Honorary Treasurer (PR)

The Honorary Treasurer recorded that his report and the accounts had been posted on the website prior to the AGM.

The Accounts were proposed Tony Shutt, seconder Chris Bale, and unanimously approved by those present.

4.2 NHUSP Report (AKB) had submitted a report a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes, recording that this has been posted to the website and circulated to Members, there no questions.

4.3 RYUAG Report (DH not present) had submitted a report a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes, recording that this has been posted to the website and circulated to Members

5. Election of Officers

President:	Annette Badger
Deputy President	Vacant
Secretary:	Chris Reece
Treasurer:	Peter Randall

BL: Recorded that: No elections are planned and that we plan to have an EGM, or SGM, when following the England Hockey Governance Roadshows.

6. Election of Life Members: No Life Members have been nominated this year.

7. Awards

Long Service Award: Mark Wilkie

Ken Stephenson Award: Amanda Parker JP, DL

Meeting closed 12.10pm

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Hon. Secretary

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President/Chairman