

EHO Branch AGM 8th July 2026

Chair

Welcome and thank you all for attending this AGM and a special welcome to Will Davey, who has recently been appointed England Hockey Officiating Manager, we wish him every success.

Reports

Appointments

The year the Adult League started a week earlier than usual which meant that there were umpires not available due to their commitment to cricket finals and this caused a massive amount of effort by those umpires that were available by doubling up where possible.

There were 10 umpires who attained their level 2 during the season with all taking umpire appointments for neutral games when not appointed by their own clubs, this eased the appointments greatly for both on Open-Men's and Women's Prem leagues, In recent seasons we have been requested by NPUA to supply umpires almost every week, however, this season though there has been only 4 requests which has greatly made this a lot easier for appointments.

My thanks go to all the umpires that took Neutral appointments over the season for your help, understanding and support.

Always remember games need umpires without them there is no game.

Club Umpire Developer Lead

Armitage September 2025, 31 umpires attended with 17 people achieving their L1s and 5 coaches receiving support with 2 out of 3 achieving their coaching award. My thanks go to all the exceptional coaches for all their hours of support before, during and after the tournament.

Clubs, please keep supporting these events to develop young and not so young umpires.

3 events of U14/16 NW Development and U16/18 NW Schools Finals were held at King Macc, Timperley and Sedbergh and I would like to thank the clubs and attending umpires for their support and for supporting each other.

Young Umpire development

Over the course of the 2025/2026 season we added 53 young umpires to the programme.

Activity over the year was concentrated in counties where there were regular YU coaches to support development. Cumbria had an excellent year with the support of Chris Regan and Dan Reid, regularly drawing 6-12 YUs to most U10/U12 mini tournaments. In future the availability of coaches to support at youth tournaments will be vital to developing young umpires across the region more consistently.

34 young umpires attended the North West County In2 tournaments in March

We have 25 young umpires for the In2 North West Area Finals at the Armitage Sports Centre on the 26th April.

On a national level we have worked closely with the new nations YU committee to support young umpires from the North West to participate in national events.

TAP Report

Summary of key activity since last meeting:

NW Premier league games running successfully and most running under 80 mins duration including breaks. Only issues are umpires not being able to be ready and where there are injury or discipline issues. This format will be mandated next season and all umpires to be coached on how to manage this

Some clubs not providing suitable Match Official at premier league games and next year umpires will be asked to feedback on officials provided by clubs. Another briefing for club appointed match officials will be generated ready for start of the season

Indoor

All schools Tier 1 competition had both umpires and technical officials appointed

Regional adult event covered with all national league umpires (2 women's teams, 4 mens teams)

I would like to thank all Coaches, Assessors and helpers at all events for giving up their time and efforts it really is appreciated.

Once again I would like to thank all umpires for your support over the season.

One final thanks is to Chris Reece who over last summer completely overhauled the NW Officiating web pages, this I know took weeks of hard work.

Lead Reports

NW Umpire Club Developer Lead 2025 Report

This report covers 2025 only due to stepping down at the end of the first half of the season.

Well I set off the season with my previous 1 role now being 3 roles, somehow, but I went with it.

There have been various development tournaments, which we continue developing and not drifting as they are a more focused way of group umpire development, where they gain feedback and are able to implement it straight away. :-

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Clubs, please keep supporting these events to develop young and not so young umpires.

3 events of U14/16 NW Development and and U16/18 NW Schools Finals were held at King Macc, Timperley and Sedbergh and I would like to thank the clubs and attending umpires for their support and for supporting each other.

I would like to say a massive thank you for those that support our umpire's development as without you it couldn't happen. Mainly Gemma Jones, Annette Badger, Chris Regan and Eunice Ellison along with many others and my family who support me and attend events, even if they don't really want to. Even the dog. Thank you.

The pool of support is small and getting smaller and requires more support than we have currently as it falls to a few to do so much. Officiating needs to make it more appealing to want to join in and cast the net very wide to encourage new blood. If more people were involved, it would lighten the loads, have a more diverse pool of ideas and you would learn how it works etc whilst not being as onerous a job.

Hope your season went well. Jane Evans
Club Umpire Developer Lead

NW AOC AGM 2026 Young Umpires Report – Joy Elliot-Bowman

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34 young umpires attended the different county In2 tournaments in March, coached by great YU coaches across each county. We are grateful for the support of Eunice Ellison, Annette Badger, Jane Evans, Mark Kendrick, Chris Regan, Gemma Jones and Rhydian Burston who coached at each of these events.

We have 25 young umpires for the In2 North West championships at the Armitage Sports Centre at the end of April.

On a national level we have worked closely with the new nations YU committee to support young umpires from the North West to participate in national events. 6 young umpires have participated in national tournaments since last AGM. Our YU lead has also fed into changes to the national young umpire programme that will now have two streams, Academy and Performance, allowing more young umpires with promise and enthusiasm to participate on a national level. We will continue to send our young umpires to the national programme when they've achieved the top level here in the North West to ensure they have the very best opportunities to develop.

Many thanks,
Joy

NW AOC Meeting Reports -Technical Officiating

Includes Indoor umpiring

NW Premier league games running successfully and most running under 80 mins duration including breaks. Only issues are umpires not being able to be ready and where there are injury or discipline issues. This format will be mandated next season and all umpires to be coached on how to manage this

Some clubs not providing suitable Match Official at premier league games and next year umpires will be asked to feedback on officials provided by clubs. Another briefing for club appointed match officials will be generated ready for start of the season with potential teams call

There are area master event hosted at Timperely available for the development of match officials during the summer and the presumption is that the Cheshire cup will also offer an opportunity

Two NW TO have undergone EHL assessment and I am pleased to say that both Simpn Allen and Jane Evans have successfully passed

TAP leadership has changed but no area TO meeting has taken place since the start of the season. This needs to be raised with OWG

Indoor

All schools Tier 1 competition had both umpires and technical officials appointed

Regional adult event covered with all national league umpires (2 womens teams, 4 mens teams)

One candidate umpire - Becky Evans . can be considered level 1 indoor. Officially this does not exist but in discussion with Lee Barron regarding this as Indoor Hockey UK award this level at their events

John Dixon promoted to Womens's national 2 panel

Current Panels

Womens National 1 – Clare Barwood, Tom Cox, Gemma Jones

Womens National 2 – Eric Dickinson, John Dixon

Womens National 3 – Paul Masterson, Evie Halsall (at Uni)

Mens National 1 – Kevin Roberts (int)

Mens National 2 –

Mens National 3 – Alex Brandwood, Pritpal Sihota

Mens Reserve Panel – Simon Allen

Indoor High Potential Panel - Patrick Bland at Uni

New Officials covered national league indoor as judges - Jane Evans, Leighan Bleasdale