



NORTH WEST HOCKEY

Whistler

June 2022

EHO BRANCH AGM

It is that time of year again!
FINISH READING ON PG. 2



WELCOME

Whilst the league season has ended we have turned our attention to summer tournaments and getting ready for 22/23 season ahead. AGMs have been completed but please do get in touch as we have vacant positions to be part of our team

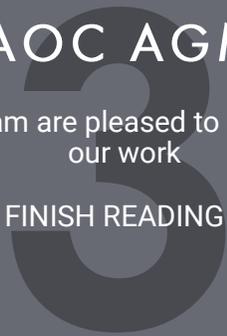
Annette Badger
North West Officiating Chair



AOC AGM

Our team are pleased to continue our work

FINISH READING ON PG. 3



OTHER NEWS

Appointed umpires, development, and young umpires

FINISH READING ON PG.4



NORTH WEST HOCKEY





EHO BRANCH AGM

The AGM of the NW Branch of the EHO was held on April 28th. The Chair reported:

'The year has presented many challenges, not least in the establishment of the new NWH Officiating Committee for in addition to the responsibilities of the NHUA new roles have been created so that we can support Club Umpires and to develop Match Officials.

I would like to thank members of the OC and their teams for all their hard work this season. Chris Reece and his Panel Leads – initially Tom McCabe and now Tony Shutt, and Chris Regan who with Lou Robinson the Appointments Lead have overcome so many obstacles and constraints to appoint to the Premier Leagues and Graham Morrison who has covered the EH Competitions. Jane Evans and her Cluster Leads – Inger Bevers, Will Reynolds, Jo Skelton, Luke Pibworth and Chris Regan who are establishing closer links with Club Umpires. Most recently Rhydian Burston has taken over as Young Umpire Lead only a month or so ago but in the interim the way in which former members of RYUAG pulled together ensured that the Young Umpire programme got underway, and I am extremely grateful to them. Finally, but not least David Alcock who has been tasked with the development of Match Officials.

From the outset one of our main concerns has been communicating with our members , establishing contacts in Clubs and with Umpires. The first Newsletter, Whistler, was published at the beginning of December, then the NWH Website went live, followed by NW Officiating and NW Young Umpires Facebook and Twitter. Now through GMS the monthly Whistler can be sent to all members and also to Clubs reaching a much wider audience. It is thus a shame that no one expressed interest in the Administrators Role, although the title is off putting, as the role is all about communication with umpires, match officials and Clubs and promoting officiating.

A further challenge for us all has been GMS. However, as more functions become operational, and we become more familiar with the system it will provide us with the tools and data to help us to manage the various elements of officiating more effectively.

The Officiating Working Group which consists of the eight Area Officiating Chairs plus a representative from the NPUA and TAP have been concerned with producing the framework for the workings of the EHO all of which need to go to the Area

Select Committee for review and subsequent approval. Much time was spent in 2021 writing the Constitution, Bye Laws, and T O Rs and determining the Membership structure, packages, and expenses rates. Currently we are waiting for the approval of the Umpire Code of Conduct. A small sub group has been established to review the current Insurance Policy and another to produce, in the short term, some developmental resources – material from the NPUA Library and FH Umpire is being loaded onto Hockey Hub.

The supply of umpire shirts was pursued by the E H Officiating Relationship Manager, but the proposal of shirts embellished with the EHO and Area Logos using the current EH Kit provider was considered – at £25 p.p. for the Value shirt and £35 p.p. for the Premium shirt - too expensive. The search for a new umpire shirt has to take into consideration the need for the supplier to hold the stock and restrictions on the use of the EH logo.

We would like to thank David Elworthy, EH Officiating Relationship Manager for all the time and hard work he has devoted to the establishment of the EHO and wish him well in his new role with the ECB. We look forward to meeting his successor.'

AOC AGM

None of the positions on the AOC was contested and the following remain in post:

Chair – Annette Badger, **Appointments Lead** – Lou Robinson, **Club Liaison Lead** – Jane Evans, **Technical Officiating Lead** – David Alcock.

By the close of nominations no one had come forward to assume the role of Umpire Developer Lead which Chris Reece felt unable to continue because of the demands of his positions as Chair of NWH Ltd and EH VP. However, we are delighted that Mark Wilkie has offered to take the Lead, and this will be confirmed by the Board.

Finally, we are anxious to appoint someone to have responsibility for communicating with our members, mainly the oversight of social media and formatting items for the newsletter and would welcome any expressions of interest.

Going forward. The EHO will be looking immediately to resolve the provision of shirts issue and review the current membership packages/ insurance, and during the year to begin working on strategies for developing officiating. In the NW some of the priorities are to tackle the unacceptable behaviour of some players, coaches, and spectators; to increase the number of umpire developers; expand the number of club umpires willing to take occasional independent appointments and offer more development opportunities for club umpires and especially female umpires.



TOURNAMENT HOCKEY

Appointed Umpires : The Men's County Championships.

Over the weekend of May 7/8th Neston HC hosted Pool 4 of the B Division County Championships. Umpire Manager Jonathan Hull with Tournament Director David Elcock supported umpires Ed Westbrook, Sam Williams, Graham Morrison, and Si Cobley. Cheshire ran out as winners and faced to Isle of Man in the National Finals at Nottingham on May 28th.

Club Umpires: The Women's Masters O55 Championships.

The Over 55 Women's Masters Tournament held at Timperley on the 21st of May presented an opportunity to focus on the development of Women Umpires and Umpire Support.

Four L1 Umpires – Rosie Davies (Didsbury Northern), Natalie Lewis (Wilmslow), Rachel Crocker (Deeside Ramblers) and Jo Robinson (Timperley) supported by three higher level umpires: : Lou Robinson, Emma Louise Whitehouse and Karen Smith and a L2 Umpire Developer Candidate- Sophie Parker received individual and group coaching over the course of the weekend. Annette Badger was the Umpire Manager and there was even a guest appearance by Gemm Jones who umpired in the final which was convincingly won by the Midlands.

Whilst some had been apprehensive about whether they would be 'good enough' their experiences and the general consensus from the teams affirmed that they were more than competent to take charge of the games. Their umpiring improved rapidly after the first games game, and they all commented upon how much they had gained from the weekend. More importantly everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially the great spirit that grew amongst the all - women Officiating Team.

Young Umpires: The Tier 2 and 3 EH Cup Club Finals.

The boys and girls U14 and U16 Finals were held at Lancaster University on a sunny but chilly Sunday 26th April. Once again our young umpires provided a high standard of officiating that was noted and appreciated by the teams. Eight Young Umpires : Luke Braithwaite, Ben Claydon, Shawn Lewis, Molly Smith, Mollie Maguire, Emily Jones and Reuben Frodsham were supported by UM and Assistant UM Zac Longstaff and Sophie Parker with coaches Jamie Hooper and Jo Skelton and Alex Brandwood. The event was also used as a development opportunity for the umpire coaches and Annette Badger was in support.





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