



**NORTH WEST
HOCKEY**

**NORTH WEST
AOC Branch AGM**

8 JULY 2026

CANDIDATE LEAFLET

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Brief Role Descriptions (Purpose)

Chair

To provide vision, leadership and strategic planning in all aspects of North West Officiating, in line with the England Hockey guidelines. To oversee the Officiating Committee to ensure delivery of umpire development through development pathways to umpires at all levels, with a high level of customer satisfaction. Providing that important link between Officiating and the rest of the game.

Young Umpire Lead

To operate as a key driver of information from the Area Officiating Committee to the clubs, to facilitate Young Umpire recruitment, retention and development opportunities within the North West.

Appointments Lead

To appropriately appoint umpires and technical officials to all required North West Area leagues and competitions for juniors and adults, as well as England Hockey competitions where appropriate.

Technical Officiating Lead

To support clubs and technical officials within the area to support all Area Leagues, Competitions and England Hockey competitions where appropriate.

Please note: * Indicates Contested Role

Chair

Chris Reece

Level 2 Premier Panel Umpire many years, umpired at club, County and Regional level, previous Secretary and Chair NHUA, also previous president and Chair NWHUA.

I have served on the North West officiating committee since inception in 2020, represented NW Officiating on the England Hockey Officiating Working Group (OWG) for the past 2 seasons giving me a strong understanding and insight of the challenges at Area and national level and the development of the new Officiating Pathway.

Also served as Chair of NW Hockey (2020 - 2026) bringing the knowledge and understanding of the wider NW Hockey Strategy and the key role officiating plays in how we develop, grow and support our clubs and EHO members. I also have good relationships across our clubs in the NW through my previous roles, officiating and from NW Hockey Clubs Forums. I understand the requirements for the role both from an officiating perspective but also the wider NW Hockey perspective and that of our clubs and members.

- Lead the AOC and develop strategies to support the growth and development of Officials at all levels in the North West and shape, input and deliver the Officiating elements of the overall NW Hockey Strategy working with the other NW chairs and management team, board, clubs and members.
- Work closely with England Hockey Officiating Working Group (OWG) in the roll out and implementation of the New Officiating Pathway to our clubs and officials across the NW including engagement and communications to ensure all our



clubs and officials understand the new framework and working with them to support the roll out and embedding the new framework.

- Mobilise the new NWO Committee and engage the team to agree key priorities for 2026/27 to ensure
- We have individually and as a team, have clarity across all roles and responsibilities to deliver our key operational activities to ensure we support the hockey across the NW area including appointments; development (adults and juniors), technical officiating, coaching and support

Improve engagement and communications to support members, clubs and officials including deliver a minimum of Umpire Forums F2F and online each season

Deliver specific initiatives as part of the NW Hockey Strategy including developing and implementing a project to encourage, attract and support more Female's to pick up a whistle

Young Umpire

Rhydian Burston

I would like to undertake the role as the young umpire lead for North West hockey for several reasons; I have done this role before and want to assist the region and undertake the role again. I'd like to develop awareness of the young umpire program, develop the pathway of young umpires through junior finals leading to national finals, also assisting in the development of young umpires in the adult leagues. A new aspect I am looking at adding is a young umpire introduction to umpiring course, focusing heavily on the IN2Hockey model. I have been part of hockey in the North West for over 20 years. So being given the opportunity to assist in developing the future of umpires in the North West is a very rewarding role.



*Appointments Lead - Contested Role

Graham Morrison

Graham Morrison 48 years young.

Currently Level 3 umpire and Level 2 coach/assessor.

Experience for the role: I have been involved with officiating for many years, first starting in the previous North West hockey umpiring association. During this time, I took on the role of appointments secretary for several seasons.

Since the restructuring I have been involved with GMS for competition appointments for NW Area, this gives me a great understanding of GMS and how appointments work. I also have a good understanding of the fine balance needed for the appointments between distance of travel and having the right umpires on the right games at certain times of the season, as well as ensuring umpires get a fair mix of teams and games during the course of a season.



Ambitions for the future

Working with the Officiating committee and the league committee, I would like to see numbers taking neutral appointments grow with not only young and upcoming umpires but also ex-players who are keen to stay involved after stopping playing. Also utilise our more experienced umpires in a mentoring scheme which sees us able to appoint to Div one games to assist in development of our umpires.

*Appointments Lead - Contested Role

Sofia Colasurdo

As an experienced teacher, I am accustomed to communicating with range of stakeholders and developing professional relationships. In my managerial and leadership roles, I use a range of verbal and online communication and ensure it is done with professionalism but also with warmth and understanding that staff appreciate timely, justified decisions. This is something I aim to do within the appointments lead position

I have good knowledge of GMS, frequently using it as part of my current umpire role; checking my appointments as well as expenses and registering for clubs when umpiring. I have played in north west hockey teams for the last 20 years across the divisions as well as umpiring across the region and fulfilling allocated L2 appointments. I have many friends and contacts across the leagues and feel o understand the frustrations and challenges that teams have when it comes to allocations and believe that I can address some of these within the appointment lead role.

I also have good knowledge of transport networks and travel across the region regularly. Combined with communication with umpires, I believe that appointments can be made with a range of external factors, like travel time, considered

I am ambitious for myself as an umpire and for the region as a whole. I have been working at gaining more experience as a L2 umpire by doing L2 appointed games as well as umpiring clubs in non appointed leagues, such as Open and Women's Div 1 and hope that I have the opportunity to become and assessor and towards my L3 qualifications.



Technical Official Lead (TAP)

Peter McInulty

I am a committed hockey match official with a passion for supporting fair, safe, and enjoyable competition. Through my officiating experience, I have developed a calm and confident approach to decision-making, clear communication with players and coaches, and a strong understanding of the rules and spirit of the game.

I'd like to use the role to develop the amount of Match Officials in the NW so that TAP can appoint to all EHL matches.

The other area that I want to focus on is Club appointed match officials in the top divisions of the North West League structure to go from simply being someone who records the match data to actively assisting the umpires.

Last season, I was the match official for 26 National League matches 8 of which were in Premier division matches. For indoor I was involved with NW qualification rounds, National League and the Masters World Cup in Nottingham.

I've been the Tournament Director for the Cheshire Cup competitions for several years and for the 8-area Masters tournaments held at Timperley and Bowdon.

I am currently the Discipline lead for the NW having previously been in the same role for Cheshire and then the North before the structure change. I've also been heavily involved as a volunteer hockey maker at many England Hockey events but also at 4 Olympic Games and 4 Commonwealth games (So far).

