



# SOUTH CENTRAL AREA OFFICIATING COMMITTEE

## DECEMBER 2024 – OFFICIATING NEWSLETTER

We would like to wish you all the very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and hope that you can come back suitably rested and refreshed in 2025.

### COMMITTEE

Just as a reminder your committee is:

Role	Name	E-mail contact
Chair	Simon Milford	<a href="mailto:Chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey">Chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Vice Chair	Hatty Wood	<a href="mailto:ViceChair.officiating@southcentral.hockey">ViceChair.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
TAP Lead	David Rigby	<a href="mailto:LeadTAP.officiating@southcentral.hockey">LeadTAP.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Lead Appointer	Allan Notman	<a href="mailto:LeadAppointer.officiating@southcentral.hockey">LeadAppointer.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Lead Developer	Ginette Tessier	<a href="mailto:Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey">Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Club Liaison	Rowena Shepherd	<a href="mailto:Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey">Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Young Umpires	Sophie Parker	<a href="mailto:LeadYoung.officiating@southcentral.hockey">LeadYoung.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>

Your committee is here for you as an official (either umpire, match official, coach or assessor) at whatever level of the South Central organisation you operate at. If you have an officiating related question, need some help with umpire coaching or development, or just have officiating related questions that you can't find the answer to – then get in touch with us and we'll see if we can help.

### DEVELOPMENT

Exciting new developments coming from the Development Team at South Central with two new online resources in production. First up, we'll have a new space through [umpiredev.co.uk](http://umpiredev.co.uk) where developers will be able to upload short video clips of umpires in action, for all registered umpires to review for their own development. Who knows, you may even feature in some of the clips (with your permission of course)!

The second new resource will be an online course designed to help brand new umpires navigate their way through their first match, first season and beyond. It will also help umpires understand the pathway through the various umpiring Levels.

We hope both of these resources, available through funding from former County Associations, will provide additional ways to help umpires within South Central continue to learn, develop and above all enjoy their umpiring with the support of the South Central team.

Last season's experiment with recording the sessions and having the previous one or two up on the <https://umpiredev.co.uk/> website will continue, so if Mondays are a struggle, you can still catch up with the Monday Mixer sessions which have proved so popular that several other areas have also adopted them (but ours were the original and are the best).

The link to join the Mixer is always on the umpiredev website, in the top right hand corner. Just click the link at 7.30pm on a Monday and we'll see you there!

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND OFFICIATING

No, this isn't a warning to be careful about what you post on social media, although we all do need to think twice before pressing the "send" button, but is a set of links to various useful resources available through your 'phone or computer.

First up is the Hockey Umpiring Trust, a channel which is available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@HockeyUmpiringTrust>

There are several useful videos here (hosted by Simon Mason), including one with guests Alison Keogh, Dan Barstow and Marcin Grochal

(<https://youtu.be/Ob1KStwnF8k?si=ZO3QpXHUnwcmD4Xg>);

and a more recent one with guests Sarah Wilson, Steve Rogers and Andy Halliday

(<https://youtu.be/etOzFVuPBZ4?si=ZVyaMSEL6La5Cf->).

There is something in these videos for any level of umpire, or even for aspiring umpires, so jump in and see what you can pick up from some of the very best around.

Don't forget, of course, the FHUmpires YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@FHumpires>) where there are plenty of videos covering just about every aspect of umpiring.

Those of you who prefer to listen there is a podcast (called UmpireCast), prepared by the NPUA but relevant to officials at any level:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/2uYwhpUJYXUbKz89GHvGqk?si=50295486aaeb462c>

This link is to the show on Spotify, but the podcast will be available wherever you normally get your podcasts from. Go and have a listen and see what you think.

## LEVEL 1 ASSESSMENTS


Just as a reminder, especially to Club Umpire Developers across the Area, that Level 1 assessments should be arranged via Hatty Wood ([vcechair.officiating@southcentral.hockey](mailto:vcechair.officiating@southcentral.hockey)). Get in touch with Hatty and she will explain the whole process to you and arrange for an assessor at a suitable time.

# QUIZ TIME!

As we are in a quiet part of the season, unless you are busy with shed (indoor) hockey, here is a quiz for you to try out. You may recognise it as part of the GCHQ christmas quiz for 2024 (they are much cleverer than me, especially when it comes to creating quizzes) but give it a go and see where you get. There are 7 answers – each one a landmark in the UK (not especially hockey related I'm afraid).

No prizes – just kudos and a feeling of a job well done!

**1** What does this say?



**4** Solve the clues. Only write in each square the single letter, if any, which appears in both the across answer and the down answer.

	Indian butter (4)	___ Voldemort, ___ Asriel (4)	Football anti-racism campaign (4, 2, 3)	Woodwind reed instrument (7)
Material that jeans are made from (5)				
Slang word for food (from a pub?) (4)				
Latin dance (3-3-3)				
Life ____, free ____, or hair ___ (5)				

**2** What are you left with once you've removed the award, carrier, character, programme, route, and safety guide?

Black	Brick	Badge
Pink	Cross	Bag
Blue	Panther	Code
Brown	Paper	Hood
Green	Peter	Road
Yellow	Pool	Show
Red	Riding	Tower

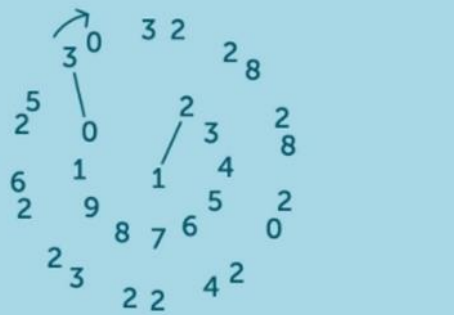
**3** Complete the sequences:

TROIS, DEUX, \_\_  
 II, III, \_\_, V  
 OD, \_\_, IM  
 QG, RH, \_\_  
 QW, ER, \_\_  
 JOAN, \_\_, ARC  
 DLA, NOD, \_\_, DLO  
 GRE, AT, \_\_, TA, IN  
 KNO, WLE, \_\_

**5** Replace the words in brackets:

An American (soldier) named Joe said that avoiding a huge colony of (insects) was the (basis) of him losing his (path).

**6** We wrote the numbers 1-20 in order below, but made some mistakes. Calculate how far off we were.



**7** PERHAPS READING the start of this substitution cipher will help you solve it.

ISKGWIM KSWEBDU BN DFN LBIGSKSE BM IKBCWKBQX W QSWEBDU BDEBLWNbfd NF XFO  
 MFQPBdu NGbM WEcBNnSEQX ESPBFOM BDBNBWQqX ODKSWEWAQS CSMMWUS.

If you need some clues, or want to confirm your answers, then just get in touch ([chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey](mailto:chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey)).

## IN THE SHED!

The short indoor season has now been and gone. Firstly a massive thank you to Calum, Aimee and James at King Edwards Southampton for all their work in organising the tournaments and venues.

On the umpiring front we appointed 19 umpires (plus Keely Dunn (FHUmpires) putting in a guest appearance) to the four area school's finals tournaments and then to club tournaments for Men, Women and U16 and U18 Boys and Girls. As well as members of South Central supporting the Berkshire and Hampshire Schools qualifying tournaments. We also tried to work closer with our colleagues in South East and London which resulted in some umpires from those regions coming to help us out and vice-versa and we hope to develop this again next season.

I have to thank Andy Stalker for coming and sharing his experience at the Schools Tournaments in Abingdon, Lia Harper for taking the lead umpire role in a number of tournaments and Rob Jenkins and Liz Spencer for making sure appointments on the day worked at the Women's tournament.

It has been great to have some new umpires giving indoor a go this season and thanks to the work of Sophie Parker (our new Young Umpire Lead) we had two young umpires make a good start to their indoor umpiring journey at the U16 Clubs tournament.

Although the indoor season is short it is a great way of developing your umpiring skills and I would encourage more umpires to give it a go next season, so please keep an eye out for communication about it at the start of next season.

Good luck to our members who will be taking NPUA indoor appointments in the New Year.



Pictured at the Boys U18 Schools Tournament are: Lee McEvoy, Graeme Cooke, Steve Godwin, Keely Dunn, Lia Harper and Jason Horne.

Simon Milford

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