**NWH OFFICIATING Leads Reports.**

**Appointments Lead Report**

This season has been a particularly challenging one with regards to appointments to the NW Men’s and Women’s Premier Leagues. Geographically, the majority of umpires live in the south of the region, however, there are a significant number of clubs located in north Lancashire and Cumbria which has resulted in longer journeys for some. In addition to geographical difficulties, we have a number of umpires limited to public transport which because of industrial action has caused significant problems in giving umpires a wide variety of venues/teams to visit. Of the eight England Hockey Areas, the NW has supplied the most regional reserves although at a smaller percentage than last year (as of February NW provided 16/66 [24%] reserves) which obviously has reduced numbers available to umpire in our regional leagues.

Changes to availability after publication (and during the drafting process) has caused substantial extra work for panel leads and myself in revising the appointments. The flexibility of most umpires to accommodate these changes was most appreciated.

On the plus side, we have been able to utilize more fully the Timperley and Neston club level two umpires which allowed us to fulfil most of the requirements.

Tony Shutt 27.04.23

**NW Club Liaison Lead 2022/23 Report**

Another good year under our belts. I would like to thank the Cluster Leads and Annette and the NW officiating committee for all their support and hard work throughout the year.

The club cluster leads, and I have been working together to continue to establish club contacts and get in touch with as many umpires and club developers as possible. All ideas from clubs have been pooled and feedback or worked on although GMS still seems to have some loopholes for getting comms to people. Please do keep spreading the work and feeding back to your cluster leads or directly to me. There have been a couple of changes with Mike Wynn taking over from Will Reynolds and Gayle Gledhill taking over from me. Thank you.

With regards to umpire development, we have been able to assess and pass umpires to L1 and L2 and assessed club umpire developers whom I would like to congratulate. At the September 22 Armitage tournament, we had 21 umpires attend on Saturday and 18 on the Sunday with 8 L1 Unassessed attaining their L1. Thank you to all those who supported through coaching umpiring and organising.

8 Umpires supported at the Lancashire cup Finals on Saturday with 5 umpires received coaching at the U16 boys and girls Semis and Finals on Sunday. Umpire development has also been provided at the Master over 55, Cheshire Plate and the Fylde tournament.

Various forums have been held which have been well attended and great feedback received at Golborne and virtually On Teams. Thank you for attending and for those that put in the hard work presenting.

A Club Survey was issued where it confirmed that we don’t have enough Club Umpire Developers and Coordinators, but there were not nearly enough people responding. The cluster leads and I will be working though all the responses.

We will continue to deliver support to all clubs and would ask you all to check that your information is correct on GMS which will make it easier for us to get in touch and support and advise you of all ongoing activities.

This year's Armitage tournament will be held on the weekend of 9 th and 10 th September so please spread the word and provide me with any names for umpire development. It is well organised by Bob Ashton and is a great format for coaching development. One thing that has been apparent this year is in relation to player discipline as this can impact the desire to continue or to pick up the whistle in the first place. Please take the appropriate action at the time and do feedback to the cluster leads and me so we can pass this on and be more aware of where it is happening and how we can support you.

Thank you to all the coaches, umpires and support. Hope you all had a great season and here’s looking to 2023/24

Jane Evans

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**Young Umpire Report**

This year like last we continued to develop a number of young umpires helping them gain their level 1 award.

The continued success of the in2 hockey finals gave us again a number of young umpires who are keen to progress along their journey and become better and assessed umpires. It also highlighted the current crop of young umpires who are leading the way and being great ambassadors for the programme. The coaching teams we had on the day were a great help very knowledgeable and helped bring the young umpires out of their shells and be move involved throughout the day, the day could not have gone so smoothly without technical officials on the day all of whom were a great help, pleasant and supportive of the young umpires.

We are putting 3 of the young umpires forward for selection to the national IN2hockey finals in Nottingham.

We hope to continue this success into next season with more young umpires and also returning more experienced ones to help encourage their peers along the way.

We also were asked to assist the local TA and supply with young umpires. I attended the TA this week with East Cheshire Hockey to see how they coach, select and also how they operate. While there I asked how the young umpires did and if they were happy to have them again for more of their friendly games. The response was positive and gave good feedback about the young umpires, they were happy with their inclusion.

Rhydian Burston 27.04.23

**Technical Officiating Lead Report.**

We have at least 5 new Mos from the NW, ex umpires, club officials and current players. This is a great improvement and helps EH considerably.

We still need more, and I am working on a strategy that will hopefully see more Mos come forward but also improve the standard of Mos at Premier and Div 1 leagues where there should be appt umpires.

There is a need to improve the match Mos at NW level and my visits to clubs suggest a mixed bag. A Proforma guide was sent out last season, but I am not sure this got much past the club secs talking to people.

There is no target audience, but you can do both umpiring/play and Mo as availability is fluid. It is important to note that you can fix availability so you can still coach, umpire your club or spectate as you wish. We do need to get responsible people from Clubs to MO NW league games as this helps umpires with player discipline.

If anybody is keen to try it out this summer’s Masters and County Cup games are an ideal opportunity. Please let me or Annette know if you are keen. Thanks again for your support.

David Alcock 27.04.23