



<b>WEST EHO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Rod Cook (RC) Chair, David Lillywhite (DL) Development Lead, Graham Woolcock (GW) Appointment Lead, Alison Cook (AC) Club Liaison Lead, Richard Hill (RH) Technical Officiating Lead, Barbara Reynolds, Caroline Baynes, John Hammond, Jonathon Bower, Mark Sims, Val Shipsey, Steve Tovey, Jack Tovey, Keith Dingle, Chris Brewer, Nick Stibbs, Richard Jones, Justine Nicklin, Kevin Hopkins, Phil Mutlow, Nick Kendall, Anne Baker, Shirley Lupton, Nick James, David Chard, Ben Redwood, Mike Reynolds, Mike Buckland, Sally Richardson, Gary McKenzie, Richard Hill, Mike Dutton, Roger Triscott, Paul Harriman, Mike Daniel, David Gillespie, Pete Tovey, David Chatterjee, Christian Phillips-Adams, Paul Westgate, Steve Hamey, Barrie Pollard, Bridgette Jones, Tom Wilson, Jenny Holman and Danielle Bunt.
<b>Apologies:</b>	James Makepeace (Young Umpire Lead), Mike Legg, David Wilson, Pete Hammond, Bob Whittel, Anthony Bridge, Malcolm Presley-Smith, Richard Shaw.

<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1. Chairman's Welcome</b>	
RC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Barbara Reynolds for the organisation and management of the meeting and Alison Cook for taking the minutes. He also thanked Pete Hammond for his work as Chair in the organisation's inception year.	
<b>2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM</b>	
These were agreed as accurate and there were no matters arising.	
<b>3. Reports</b>	
These had been circulated prior to the meeting. RC thanked all the committee members as they had spent an immense amount of time and effort over the year to ensure the committee ran as efficiently as possible. He also thanked Terry Cook who is now managing the Twitter and Facebook accounts which has given us improved ways to communicate. GMS will always be the primary communication channel but we have to use it sparingly so as not to overload recipients with too much information.	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chaiman’s report – no questions or comments</li><li>• Development Lead – no questions, RC commented that the report sets out issues and aspirations.</li><li>• Appointments Lead – no questions or comments.</li><li>• Club Liaison Lead – AC updated with regard to the possible use of summer league games for umpire development and assessment and was still awaiting Board confirmation that expenses, if claimed by coaches, would be paid.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Jon Bower asked what the criteria was for a Club Umpire Developer. AC advised this is on the EH website and she would send him the link.</li><li>○ Mike Dutton said he was working with three other local clubs to provide umpire support in a mini cluster. AC said she had been in contact with MD and what he is doing forms an ideal template that she would be looking to encourage other groups of clubs to use.</li></ul></li><li>• Technical Officiating Lead<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Anne Baker asked if all National League games had an appointed match official. RH advised these are appointed by TAP, he is only responsible for West League. Ben Redwood was able to advise that National League Premier and Division 1 games had 100% coverage, the Conference Divisions had a target of 80%.</li></ul></li><li>• Appointments Lead – RC said that this was, without doubt, the most difficult job with varying issues every week.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Anne Baker said she appreciated doubling up of umpires was not easy with multiple teams vying for the prime time slots.</li><li>○ Mike Dutton asked why it was not recommended to umpire a Ladies game prior to a Men’s game. RC gave his view from personal experience in that Men’s games are physically and mentally faster and adapting to that level from a slower Ladies game is difficult.</li></ul></li><li>• Young Umpire Lead<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Steve Tovey thanked all those who supported his son Jack and who has now started to get appointments outside the Area. RC wished him well in his GCSE’s and gave thanks to James as young umpires are essential for the growth of umpire numbers, the continual problem is that they don’t stay in the Area long, either going to University or upward to NPUA.</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>AC to send link</p>
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<b>Election of Officers</b>	
<p>RC advised that there had been no additional nominations for the Lead roles and those continuing were re-elected unopposed. He noted this as being a vote of confidence that we were getting things right. JM was standing down from the Young Umpire Lead due to work commitments and we would be talking to people about taking on this role.</p>	
<b>Any Other Business</b>	
<p>Items for AOB were required to be submitted by 26<sup>th</sup> April and none had been received. RC thanked everyone for attending as it was very much a functional meeting, it was hoped to have an on-line forum of some sort towards the start of the season.</p> <p>Justine Nicklin commented that in relation to Young Umpires it would be beneficial to have a North and a South Lead, this was agreed and would be discussed at the next committee meeting.</p> <p>Steve Tovey said that young umpires might want to try neutral umpiring but initially not on League games, perhaps look at festival hockey.</p> <p>Mark Sims said he didn't understand the Men's &amp; Women's appointment process as it went against EH policy and this had been an action point from the 2022 AGM. RC advised the committee were currently in detailed discussions with the West Board on appointing policy.</p> <p>Anne Baker was concerned at the current selection policy that you couldn't play and umpire on the same day. RC clarified this as he is a selector stating that this perception is incorrect and if a player/umpire wants to do this then they will be accommodated if timings of games make it possible. AC added she had three or four umpires with club commitments and worked around them wherever possible. It took a little more work but it gives us more umpires.</p> <p>Val Shipsey said that with the demise of the County HUA's getting umpires for county tournaments was very hard. RC appreciated the difficulties and suggested liaising with Alison Cook (North) and Matt Reynolds (South) who may be able to help. One issue is that GMS cannot be used to administer these games so we have no knowledge of availability and the questions of expenses needs to be clarified.</p> <p>RC thanked Val for her work on the finance side of West Hockey in enabling umpire expenses to be paid exceptionally quickly at the mid-point and end of the season. Val's work was much appreciated particularly with the mileage rate reduction not being able to amended on GMS so she had to make manual adjustments to claims.</p>	



Steve Tovey commented that the group of young umpires were not acting as a group and there needed to be some form of cohesion. He also pointed out that as a club umpire they got paid (£10 to £20) so this was useful income which they would lose by taking neutral appointments. He was advised JM had been waiting for EH to arrange a meeting of all the Young Umpire Leads so ideas and best practice could be shared but this has not yet happened.

Anne Baker said she had students at Exeter University keen to do games but it was difficult to bring them forward.

Meeting closed at 20:15