

Committee Report Club Umpire Development Lead

22.4.25

Positives

- Clusters are all in place with activities taking place depending on the level of engagement from clubs. Some are more active than others but all Leads report the difficulty in getting clubs to respond let alone engage. [See barriers below]
- I am getting occasional contact from umpires from around the Area referencing the contact information on the West website or from being given my name so the word is spreading.
- Emails were sent to every Level 1 umpire on the EH master list database (approx 1,500) giving information about the support available through coaching and development. It provided details of who to contact within their club and the Club Cluster initiative. Very few 'bounce backs', mainly university addresses, and only half a dozen requests to cease contact.
- Two club umpire coaching days were arranged, at the request of those clubs, and over the two days advice was given to 16 umpires. This was very well received and we have three clubs wanting visits at the start of next season.
- In conjunction with Barbara Reynolds emails are now being sent to all newly qualified Level 1 umpires after they have completed the online course. There was resistance, which could not be overcome to the email being sent by me but I did agree the email content.

Barriers

- The biggest barrier is that I cannot get access to the Club Umpire Liaison Officers. This role is on the Club registration form that is completed for EH each year, although not sure if it is mandatory. Our cluster leads have managed to get to the right person in some clubs but I doubt the figure is over 50%. My role is that of Club Umpire Developer so there is a legitimate interest to have the information and to be able to email them directly and not through a third party. The cluster leads are majorly disadvantaged without this information.

Meetings

- Attended although the Adult Competition meetings although on two occasions I was not included in the circulation list and so was not aware of the meeting.
 - A request has been made to have a document on the website with the protocols for when a club appoints an Under 18 umpire.
- Attended the League clubs forum to speak about what we were doing with regard to club clusters and umpire development.
- Attended the inaugural meeting of all my Area colleagues. This was not a productive meeting for various reasons but subsequent conversations have led me to believe the issues will be sorted. The only positive from it was that the West seem to be doing well compared to some other Areas. Nothing was put forward by others that we were not aware of and no new ideas.

Going forward

If I am re-elected things on the agenda to look at are:

- Regular virtual discussion meetings where umpires can talk about things that have happened, what would you do scenarios etc.
- Contacting all Club Umpire Developers with regard to any support they need.
- Having more club umpire development days.

Alison Cook