



# SPEAKING FOR HOCKEY IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

END-SEASON | 24/25

## Chairman's introduction

### Welcome to our final newsletter of the season.

As always this has been a challenging season for the appointments team with never enough to be able to cover all the games.

Nevertheless, they have done a magnificent job in ensuring all the Tier 2 fixtures have been appointed and even some of the Tier 3 games covered.

There has been a huge effort put in by the Development Team with assessments and coaching running at an all-time high. The work that the Clubs' team has put in with days at Holcombe, Maidstone and Lewes with many clubs in the queue asking for our assistance, the future is bright.

Work for next season is already underway and an important date for your diary is **Saturday 6th September** when we will be holding our preseason event at Caterham School.

Full details will be sent to you later. I hope that you have all enjoyed your hockey this season, thank you to all the umpires that have made themselves available and shown great flexibility in helping to make the appointments system run smoothly.

Finally, I must thank the committee that have done so much to make everything work so well and to Simon and Alison for the expert production of the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Caterham and catching up with a lot of you during next season.

**PAUL SHACKMAN**  
**CHAIR, SOUTH EAST OFFICIATING**  
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#### UMPIRE REPORTS

Appointments,  
development, club  
liaison updates

#### MONDAY MIXERS

Mixers popularity  
grows. See the  
programme for  
25/26 season

#### DISCIPLINE REPORT

Good news on red  
card trends in  
South East

#### SOME SCHOOLS STUFF!

A shout out to the  
umpires for two  
U18 tournaments

#### MESSAGE FROM BEGGIE

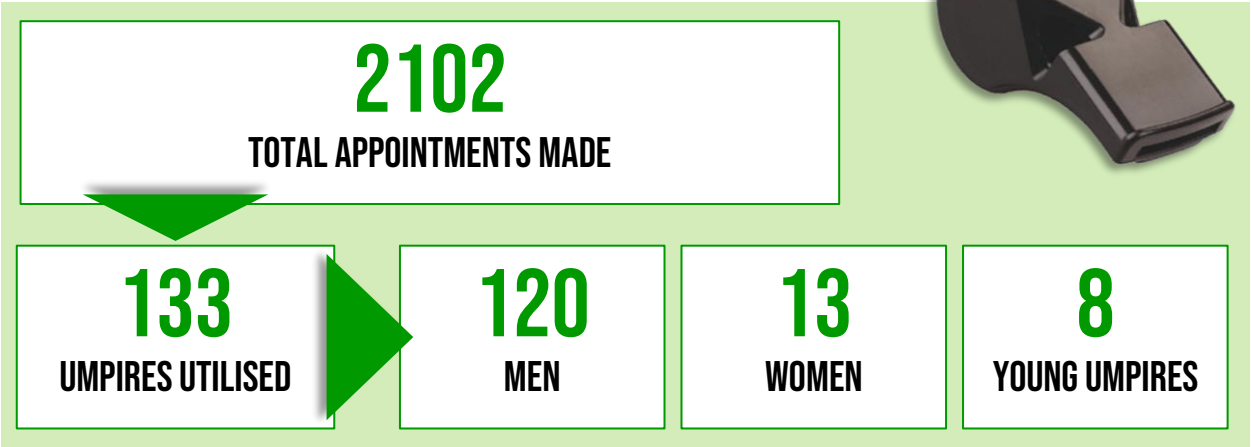
A season finale  
and thanks to all

# APPOINTMENT TEAM REPORT & SUMMARY

- As Paul has mentioned in his introduction, we have had some challenges but are again very proud of what we have accomplished this season.

Many thanks to all the umpires who have turned out in some extraordinary weathers to allow the league programmes to be completed on time.

The following data summarises the season.



## Where umpires were deployed:

South East League	Womens League	Mens League
Premier Division	265	220
Division 1 East	265	217
Division 1 West	266	252
Invicta 1	10	30
Martlets 1	62	38
Oaks 1	60	56

## Outside the League programme we supported Cups and Juniors competitions

England Hockey Cup Competitions	135
Junior Competitions	222
South Central Hampshire Cup	2
Friendlies	2

**Special Recognition** to these umpires who took more than forty appointments this season:

Ian Hay (46), Chris Butler (43), Josh Kidman (41)

**CHRIS BUTLER**



# DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT & SUMMARY

This has been another busy and largely very successful season for the Development Team.

For those who are not familiar with the structure of the development team there is more detail at the end of the newsletter.

This season we welcomed three new members to the team;

- Duncan Wood-Allum running the Monday mixer sessions.
- Malcolm Wain is responsible for data management, giving us greater insight into who has done what games and their coaching acquirements etc.
- Ian Hay who took over from Philip managing Level 1 and C panels.

Gary and Philip now have more people supporting them on coaching and club umpire development.

The ultimate measure of our success is always going to be how umpires are progressing. And this season has seen a lot of progression. Huge congratulations to all of those who have moved forward in their umpiring careers. I would single out Harry Jarvis, Robert Moore, George Deaves and Paul Chapman-Hatchett all of whom

achieved a Level 3 award and are now umpiring on the National League.

During the season we had over 20 panel promotions.

Equally pleasing is, that this season the overall quality of umpiring has seen improvement. This shows in both assessment scores and feedback from clubs.

Of course, there will be glitches in umpiring standards, and we work very hard to help address those situations.

We have seen more than ten new umpires join the panels this year and we are aware of more who intend to join us next season.

A big challenge we have is Development resource, whilst we are doing very well in comparison to other Areas, we still wish to do better.

We are always trying to recruit more coaches and assessors and are pleased to have Anne Bartley back working with us.

If you are interested in getting involved in coaching and assessing, then please contact: Gary Stent: [stents088@btinternet.com](mailto:stents088@btinternet.com)

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## Meet your Officiating Development Team

- John Moss – lead
- Jane Binner - deputy lead
- Gary Stent - Level 3 lead
- Sarah Chapman - Level 2 lead
- Ian Hay - Level 1 lead
- Gary Stent (supported by Jade Bloomfield) - coaching and assessing lead
- Philip Hook (supported by Gihan Thabrew/Jo Swift/Chris Bray/Trevor Burchell/Alan Grey) - Club liaison & Club umpire development.
- Malcolm Wain - Data management
- Duncan Wood-Allum - Monday mixers

.../ DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT & SUMMARY CONTINUED

Season 24/25 Activity Report

TOTAL WATCHINGS	ASSESSMENTS	COACHINGS
250	155	95

Breakdown of activity			
	Total Watchings	Assessments	Coachings
Men's Leagues	120	87	33
Women's Leagues	130	68	62

CONSISTENCY OF ASSESSMENT

Amongst our challenges is consistency of assessment. To address this, we recently had several senior coaches and assessors meet to all watch and assess the umpires on a game, they then compared notes and scores.

The dialogue generated was useful as some have seen things slightly differently.

The result is we are going to publish a guide outlining what we expect to see to enable an umpire to progress through the panels. That will not only help assessors, but it will also help umpires. This will be published in the early part of next season.



PRE-SEASON SESSION – SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

Paul has mentioned in his introduction the plans are well underway for a pre-season session on **Saturday the 6th of September starting at 10:00. We will be going back to Caterham School.** And are delighted to have confirmed attendance from Margaret Hunnaball (whose umpiring achievements could fill many pages) to share her perspective on umpiring. She will be joined by Kwan Browne (top coach Holcombe and GB) to talk to about umpiring from his perspective.

This occasion will also be a chance for us to present our annual awards. We will send out an invitation and would ask that you respond so that we can plan catering requirements.

We are investing more effort this year in helping club umpire development and you will see more on that later from Philip Hook in this newsletter.

**JOHN MOSS**  
**DEVELOPMENT LEAD**  
[dev.umpires@southeast.hockey](mailto:dev.umpires@southeast.hockey)

# MONDAY MIXERS REPORT & LOOK FORWARD

**This season's popular Monday Mixers have been well attended by SE Members:**



Over the course of the season, a myriad of scenarios have been shared, debated, analysed and discussed – from the sublime to the ridiculous!

The aim of the mixers is to support learning and development for all SE members. We've been delighted to see those colleagues new to the South East circuit getting involved.

Mixers have featured some fantastic special guests featuring Dan Barstow - FIH Umpire, James Mazarelo - GB & England Goalkeeper and Player Coach - Ben Alberry.

Some sessions have focused on specific areas

in supporting umpire development, drawing on the deep pool of knowledge and experience from across the Area.

**Duncan Wood-Allum** has taken over the role of facilitator from John Moss this season. Looking ahead to next season he said, "Thanks to everyone for their attendance, contributions and support at the mixers this year. The feedback has enabled us to plan a new programme for season 25/26. This will feature sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays, specific smaller group sessions for Level 1's and Level 2's, umpiring development sessions and guest speakers."

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Duncan Wood-Allum**

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[duncan@slc.uk.com](mailto:duncan@slc.uk.com)

# LOOK AHEAD: FUTURE MONDAY MIXERS

CONTACT: **Duncan Wood-Allum**  
07930 549580  
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## SE Hockey Umpires Mixers Programme Season 25/26

Date	Day	Details
29-Sep	Monday	General mixer / personal development plans (30 mins)
30-Sep	Tuesday	Club Umpires Mixer
07-Oct	Tuesday	Player Coaches mixer session
13-Oct	Monday	Group session for Level 1's with breakouts
14-Oct	Tuesday	Group session for Level 2's with breakouts
27-Oct	Monday	Guest speaker - leading umpire
10-Nov	Monday	General mixer session
25-Nov	Tuesday	General mixer with 20 min session on disciplinary processes
08-Dec	Monday	General mixer / xmas rules quiz (20 mins)
14-Jan	Wednesday	Player Coaches mixer session
19-Jan	Monday	Group session for Level 1's with breakouts
20-Jan	Tuesday	Group session for Level 2's with breakouts
02-Feb	Monday	General mixer / Pre-match preparation - 30 mins
03-Feb	Tuesday	Club Umpires Mixer
16-Feb	Monday	Guest speaker - leading player / general mixer
02-Mar	Tuesday	General mixer session / rules interpretation (30 mins)
16-Mar	Monday	General mixer session
30-Mar	Monday	Season finale' mixer - including look ahead to next season / feedback



# CLUBS LIAISON REPORT

At the start of the season SE Hockey added a new Club Umpire Development page to the web site.

<https://southeast.englishhockey.co.uk/officiating/club-umpire-development>

This has proved a great success, with Clubs now able to reach out to SE Hockey for support with coaching and development of their umpires.

This also gives a lot of guidance and information for the Club Umpire.

We have completed during the season several Club Umpire coaching days – Maidstone HC, Lewes HC and Eastbourne HC

At both Maidstone and Lewes HC we were able to see and coach several club umpires plus hold Q&A discussions throughout the day with Club umpires / Team coaches about umpiring.

We are currently discussing future club umpire coaching days for next season with the following clubs, Folkestone / Worthing / Woking / Guildford / Marden / Holcombe.

**Please get in touch if you would like us to visit your club in the new season.**

45 umpires completed their online EH course and passed their L1 Assessment.

A huge thank you to Alan Grey / Trevor Burchell and several others who have helped with these assessments and assisted in achieving this great number.

**PHILIP HOOK**

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## Club Umpire Development

Club Umpire Development



**RED CARD TRENDS IN THE SOUTH EAST AREA – GOOD NEWS**

The Area has seen a significant reduction in the number of red cards issued this season. Notably, since the Christmas break and the start of 2025, only four red cards have been issued through to the end of league season.

Seasonal Comparison of Red Cards Issued Season 24/25	Season 23/24
17 Red Cards 15 in South East league games	27 Red Cards 24 in South East league games

One particularly positive trend is the reduction in dissent-related red cards issued after the final whistle (formerly MMOs). This suggests that the "30-minute rule" initiative shared last year with clubs outlining the best practices is having a positive effect. Please continue to reinforce this approach to all your members.

**THE 30-MINUTE RULE**

Allow at least 30 minutes or wait until you're back in the clubhouse before discussing the decisions in the game with the umpires. This short pause gives everyone time to cool off, including the umpires, and helps ensure any conversations are constructive rather than emotional.

That said, please still take a moment to shake hands and thank them for umpiring—it's a simple gesture that goes a long way in maintaining respect and mutual appreciation.

**ADVICE ON DISSENT AND ESCALATION**

A problem we continue to see is red cards issued where players escalate dissent even after receiving a green or yellow card. These earlier cards for dissent should be taken as a clear warning if ignored will possibly lead to a predictable outcome.

We also encourage team captains to intervene early, if they see things escalating and help guide players off the pitch before the situation for the player deteriorates further.

**DISCIPLINARY FLOWCHART NOW AVAILABLE**

To help reduce the number of misconduct complaints and support clubs in resolving issues more effectively, we've introduced a new flowchart on the Disciplinary section of the SE website.

<https://southeast.englishockey.co.uk/area-discipline/misconduct-offences>

This tool is designed to guide clubs toward the most appropriate resolution pathway, ensuring that concerns are addressed at the right level and in the right way. We encourage all clubs to familiarise themselves with it and use it as a first step when considering how to handle on- or off-field incidents.

**MARTIN LEWIS**



# SOME SCHOOLS STUFF

## FRANK MASON TOURNAMENT

Back in late January 20 South East umpires supported the Frank Mason Tournament hosted at 4 venues in Canterbury, fortunately on a beautiful clear if chilly day.

This is a wonderful, long standing festival of Under 18 School 1st team Boys Hockey. The host school Kent College Canterbury and the Head of Hockey Alastair Brogdon were so grateful for your continued support of the 50 matches for 19 Schools.

A few stalwarts had the energy for a little refreshment in a cosy hostelry after the finals.

For the record Tonbridge School won the main event and Kings Canterbury took home the Plate.



## ST GEORGE'S SIX TOURNAMENT

Each year there is an U18 Boys 6s Tournament held on the two pitches, running two games at a time. With teams from as far afield as Manchester, Southampton and Eastbourne, 28 teams played for cup and plate. Dan Quinton assembled a team of 16 umpires from across the South of England. The four teams of four umpires planned to officiate 21 group games across the morning and early afternoon. Followed by a series of cup and plate semis and finals. During the day there were 94 scheduled games.

Unfortunately, Dan was not able to join us this year. As part of his meticulous planning, he had appointed leads for each team of umpires. David Howell and Jane Hallett stepped up and

managed the day on the two pitches. A special thanks to Neil Smith and Chris Marcus, who were called in at short notice to provide cover.

The tournament kicked off in the cricket pavilion with excellent coffee and pastry, followed by a briefing. The games started at 11:00 and finished at 18:00. On a remarkably sunny Wednesday in March the umpires enjoyed a great standard of hockey and very good-spirited competition. A wonderful day was had by all and thank you to the umpiring team: Alan Bray, Alan Dow, Andy Parker, Bruce Karsten, Chris Burton-Brown, Chris Marcus, David Howell, Jane Hallett, Mark Bennett, Neal Sullivan, Neil Smith, Paul Chapman-Hatchett, Rob Butlin, Simon Milford, Surinder Bodwal, Tom Simpson and Uly Ferreyra.



# • A SEASON COMMUNICATION • SUMMARY • •

I was inundated with Umpire Bear pictures via Karen, Annette, Jo and Sarah. Thank you.

I post fixtures and appointments to our Facebook site every week.

I continue to rely on all of you to input your suggestions for our social media posts.

“Let’s be having you” as a certain Norwich chef one shouted.

We maintain a modest presence on Facebook, Twitter (X) and Instagram, and I intend to issue newsletters like this 3 times a season as well as posting a few updates to the website.

The website content is quite formulaic, due to guidelines from England Hockey, but it remains a good vehicle for Policy and procedural type communication, whereas Social Media is more for the instant newsy content.

## **Beggie**

### **And Finally .....**

I am sure you have experienced all 4 seasons during your umpiring journey this season.

We lost a couple of weekends to frost/snow, suffered some torrential downpours and howling winds. Then ended the season in unseasonably high temperatures requiring sunscreen and posing hydration challenges. The pollen levels reached their peak and for us contact lens wearers and hayfever sufferers the associated discomforts.

We had potholes, train strikes and endless blooming roadworks to challenge our travels, but you guys still rocked it.

**SIMON BEGG**

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# LEAGUES PROGRESSION

- Whilst there remain some uncertainties on promotions and Relegations we should congratulate and recognise some of the League winners, well done all of you.

South East Division	Mens Winners	Womens Winners
Premier Div	Holcombe 2	Guildford 2
Division 1 East	Folkestone Optimists 1	Canterbury 2
Division 1 West	Reigate Priory 1	East Grinstead 2
Div 1 Martlets	South Saxons 1	South Saxons 1
Div 1 Invicta	Sevenoaks 3	Gore Court 1 (Unbeaten)
Div 1 Oaks	Croydon Trinity Whigiftians 1	Guildford 4
Div 2 Martlets	Worthing 2	Eastbourne 2
Div 2 Invicta	Bexleyheath & Belvedere 1	Ashford Kent 2 (Unbeaten)
Div 2 Oaks	Oxted 3	Camberley & Farnham 2

In the higher echelons of England Hockey South East are still very well represented.

The National Premier League continues in phase 3 at the time of writing .

In the Men's version Old Georgians, East Grinstead, Holcombe and Oxted have all competed well.

In the Women's version East Grinstead and Holcombe continue to compete.

In Division one South Men's, Sevenoaks finished 4th and Canterbury 8th.

In Division one South Women's, Guildford finished 4th and Sevenoaks 7th.

In Conference East Men's: Brighton and Hove took 4th, Bromley and Beckenham 5th and Tunbridge Wells 9th.

In Conference East Women's ;Canterbury took 6th, Old Georgians 8th and Sevenoaks 2 9th.

**All of you have a brilliant summer, enjoy Masters, Pro League or whatever else you do in the warmer months, we look forward to seeing you all very soon.**

**THANK YOU. FROM EVERYONE AT YOUR SOUTH EAST OFFICIATING TEAM.**