

London Hockey Officiating Chair Report AGM 2024

Change to Chair

On April 26th the London Hockey EHO Branch held it's annual AGM;

Tim Forte after leading both London Hockey Officiating for the last three years and Officiating Working Group (the group responsible for officiating nationally) has decided to step down. We would like to thanks Tim for all his efforts not only at local level but also at a national level.

I (Peter Mackintosh) have replaced Tim and I have been heavily involved with the Officiating Committee as Appointing Lead for the last three years and involved in transition to the new area structure with Tim before that. I also previously a member of the KHUA committee and have been volunteering in hockey for 19 years. I hope that I can bring the same class and skill that Tim brought to the role and continue to ensure London Hockey is the cutting edge of officiating in the country.

Awards for 23/24 Season

7 awards are awarded at the London Hockey Officiating AGM -the winners are as follows;

Fitzgerald Butron Awards for Services to the Area: Tim Forte

The Fitzgerald Burton Award is awarded for exceptional services to the area during the season. This was awarded for the work Tim has put in over the last three seasons as Chair of London Hockey and his work during the transition period. We would like to highly commend Graeme Hope and Phil O'Hagan as well for their work for the area this season who both went above and beyond in their roles.

Club Umpiring Award: London Edwardians

London Edwardians were recognised for their drive to improve their umpiring within the club.

Club Hospitality Awards: Southgate HC

Performance Umpire of the Year: Phil O'Hagan

Award for Progress: Laurence Kimberley

Young Umpire of the Year: Carla Bennett

Umpire Support of the Year: Rob Butlin

Indoor Umpire of the Year: Rob Butlin

Outside of the London Hockey Officiating Awards we were also happy to see national recognition at the **England Hockey awards** for **Georga Reed** who was awarded **Area/County Volunteer of the Year**.

Committee Leads for 24/25 Season

Chair - Peter Mackintosh
Vice Chair – Dawn Bonner
Appointing Lead – Graeme Hope
Club Liaison Lead – Georga Reed
Communication Lead – Amii Bonner
Head of Development – Nku Davis
Technical Officiating Lead – Stephen Mason
Young Umpire Lead – Phil O’Hagan

The only change to committee is Graeme Hope taking over as Appointing Lead after having been responsible for the Premier Division Appointments for the 2023/2024 season and before that responsible for Education Appointments for 21/22 and 22/23 season.

Future plans and strategy for London Hockey Officiating

The focus for the team will split onto three key areas’

Grassroots;

Scope: Club level umpiring. Working with other departments to assist clubs to develop their umpiring resources, culture and knowledge in line with the more, better, happier umpires paper as part of the current area initiative.

Core people responsible from Officiating: Georga Reed

Aim: Core goal is improve lower level hockey officiating

As this will lead to more enjoyment from players and therefore improve the game

As this will lead to a wider pool of potential performance umpires

As this will improve feelings of goodwill and empathy to umpires

Other Considerations: London Hockey Officiating team to provide expertise to assist and resource generation.

Performance;

Scope: Performance refers to all grade 2 officiating (London Premier, Division 1) and other fixtures that require neutral appointed umpires [indoor, masters, knockout, junior performance, disrepute]

Core people responsible from Officiating: Nku Davis and Graeme Hope

Aim: Core goal is ensure high standard of officiating at performance level;

As at this level results potentially financially impact participants (players and coaches) and higher level of commitment from non paid participants.

Aim to ensure that adequate resources available for umpire personal development

Aim to ensure ease of entry for anyone who wishes to join if of correct standard / if not clear feedback to allow them to develop to standard

Aim to ensure sufficient umpires to cover weekly commitment of right level.

Other Considerations: This is where the majority of Gold / Silver Members of London EHO branch will be involved

Diversity, London Area, National

Diversity; Aim to increase umpires from backgrounds outside of the normal stereotypes with a focus on young umpire and women in officiating.

London Area; As part of London Hockey work with other teams to ensure that we deliver the best hockey experience. Assist with Grassroot project and provide Performance umpires as appropriate.

National Officiating / NPUA; Focus on good relationship with the NPUA. Assist and work with National League teams in London, current NPUA London members and NPUA selection team to ensure that we give those umpires with the aspiration of reaching National League the opportunity Work with other areas to aid in officiating in country

National Impact; London Hockey Officiating being recognised for it's contribute on a national level for resources and advice for officiating from grassroots to performance. London Hockey Officiating being recognised for contribution as a national level for equality, diversity and inclusion for officiating.

Key Highlights from Officiating Committee Leads for 23/24 Season

Appointing;

This season as the London area we have made 1,069 umpiring outdoor appointments (22/23: 1206).

We appointed 814 umpires (22/23: 877) to London Premier or London Division 1 games out of a possible 1056 appointments.

Head of Development;

2 Outdoor nominations to NPUA, 2 Outdoor Level 3 Awards from previous nominations plus 3 successful Indoor Level 3s awarded. A Published Panel System online (updated synchronously) and 40 Coachings and 68 Assessments during season.

Young Umpires;

Reboot of the Young Umpires Program in London to identify talent, provide development resource and create a talent pipeline. Got 2 (new) young umpires doing neutral appointments for London and had 7 young umpire appointments for JAC across 4 individuals at the end of the season. Supported London Youth Games and In2Hockey finals with London young umpires and delivered Umpire Taster Day for TA & JAC on 30th June.

Club Liaison;

2 Club Calls were held with good attendance from Clubs, 2 Small Clubs working groups were held and WhatsApp group for ULOs and small clubs created

Integration of umpiring as a regular agenda item into the Area League Management Committee

Club Umpiring Strategy launched with a focus on More umpires, Better umpires and Happier umpires. With additional resources in form of club relevant guides and additional tools of annual club survey, specific team feedback and support from London Hockey Officiating

We have also being utilising the information from the Umpire Welfare online submission form alongside the team feedback form to help improve the umpiring experience.