

EHO Repor

David Chard – Temporary Chair

Firstly I'd like to thank a number of people who, in difficult circumstances have continued to keep our appointment and development of neutral pool umpires going, despite a number of challenges. Both David and Graham have been supportive and proactive in their roles this season and between the two of them have delivered week in, week out.

I'd also like to thank Richard Hill for his work on the Technical Officiating side of things and Jan Bowen and Liz Powell who have also invested a huge number of hours. Thanks also to Alison Cook, Pete Hammond and Rod Cook who have all been most helpful and continued with their support and commitment, despite two of the three no longer being committee members.

Most of you will be aware of the work that has been going on both behind the scenes in the West, but also nationally through the OWG and EH, with a drive to improve our development of our umpires at club level, an increase in the number of female umpires and improved focus on young umpires all being key national and area themes for next season. We hopefully have a new proactive chair, a number of new committee members and hopefully some returning familiar faces, all keen to take up the challenge.

It is our hope over the coming twelve months, to increase the number of coaches, mentors and assessors in the area, allowing swifter and more localized support for new and existing umpires. It is also hoped that following discussions nationally, additional resources for umpires along with guidance documents will be available for the new season, not to mention new kit.

It's been a challenging season but one which I hope we will look back on, where the foundations have been established for a brighter future for officiating, with more umpires, younger umpires and a better balance of the genders.

The West Board are fully supportive of the changes proposed and have committed to support the development of officiating in the area financially, where funds are available.

In closing I would like to thank all those officials, who week in, week out, don the kit in all weathers and allow the game we all love to happen.

David Chard