

WEST AREA APPOINTMENTS LEAD REPORT TO AGM 2023/24

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every umpire that has taken appointments this year. For the flexibility shown and the commitment in the amount of miles some of you have completed to make sure that we covered all of the games we promised the West Board at the start of the season.

This was the most difficult season for appointing for a number of reasons which I am sure the majority will be aware of. We still have a shortage of umpires on the ladies side with no solution as to how we get more onto a panel. Many mens members have taken appointments on the ladies side as well as a mens game which has been gratefully received. Speaking to many who have done this I am not sure if this willingness will continue as it sometimes means an 8 – 10 hour day away from home.

My thanks to those Mike Daniel and Anthony Bridge who complete the BUCS appointments on Wednesdays and to Pete Hammond and Steve Hamey who help Anthony and Matt Reynolds in other weekend appointments.

I would like to see more support to the volunteers instead of a series of negative posts on social media from individuals who do not know of peoples availability and travelling restrictions but are intent on damaging the work that we are trying to do to make hockey happen in our region.

Geography continues to be difficult in our region and looking at the teams who have qualified for umpires the new season will be challenging.

My thanks also go to the hard work that the selection committee do that always go unnoticed but without them we wouldn't have a working appointments system.

Congratulations to all umpires who have been successful in getting promotions during the year and I look forward to welcoming all new comers when the season recommences in the New Year. If anyone is interested in umpiring BUCs games on Wednesday please make this known to Mike and Anthony as there are still many games available for us to appoint to on both Ladies and Mens.

Thanks to David who has played a vital role again this year to support the appointments with difficult changes being made on Friday evenings and in some circumstances Saturday morning due to unavailability!

Graham Woolcock

Appointments Lead