

Jan 2014 | Issue 5

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - LOOKING AHEAD....

Happy New Year to you all!!

I hope you're enjoying this season and that your umpiring is being appreciated by the hundreds of players who rely on us for their games to take place. There are lots of new things being progressed by the YHUA committee and my thanks go to all of its members for the work that they carry out on the behalf of us all. You'll read in this edition of Whistler of the new sponsorship, new shirts, badges and all that is leading towards a more professional "corporate" image. You'll also see that there is to be a meeting later this month to which you're all cordially invited and at which we'll review the season so far and tackle some of the issues raised during that time. I hope you'll attend - if nothing else you'll have a sympathetic ear from your colleagues, because whatever the problem you might be having there's usually someone who's faced the same issue before!

Behind all of this proactive and profile raising activity there is the core of YHUA business which is carried out with quiet efficiency by people who give their time to ensure that the teams have umpires for their games and that umpires are properly appointed to games that allow their own career to progress. The people who carry out this work are rarely applauded but without them the YHUA would stall. We all, and especially me, owe them a great debt of gratitude and I hope that you will take the time to thank those who sit on the committee when you see them (most of them can also be persuaded to enjoy a beer if you offer!!).

My time as President of this association is drawing to a close and at the AGM in April there'll be a new hand at the tiller. If you have an interest in being a part of the management committee, please let YHUA secretary Chris Blogg know in advance.

In the meantime, I thank you for your support to date and wish you well for the remaining games of the season.

Chris Bowers
YHUA President



Not a Member of YHUA? Are you covered? Join now! See contact details.

UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

Richard Skippings
England Hockey Umpire Tutor
YHUA Level 1 Administrator

As you are probably aware the way that hockey umpires are trained and developed has changed. This particularly affects the training of new umpires and those who officiate in the Yorkshire League but will also affect how umpires advance up the ladder to Level 2 and 3.

In 2014 there will also be a new Introduction to Umpiring Course which will replace the current Young and Foundation Umpiring courses. This will be approximately 3 hours long and will be aimed at those with little or no umpiring experience. It will be ideal for parents, young players and those wishing to help out in youth hockey. Details of this course will be available in the New Year.

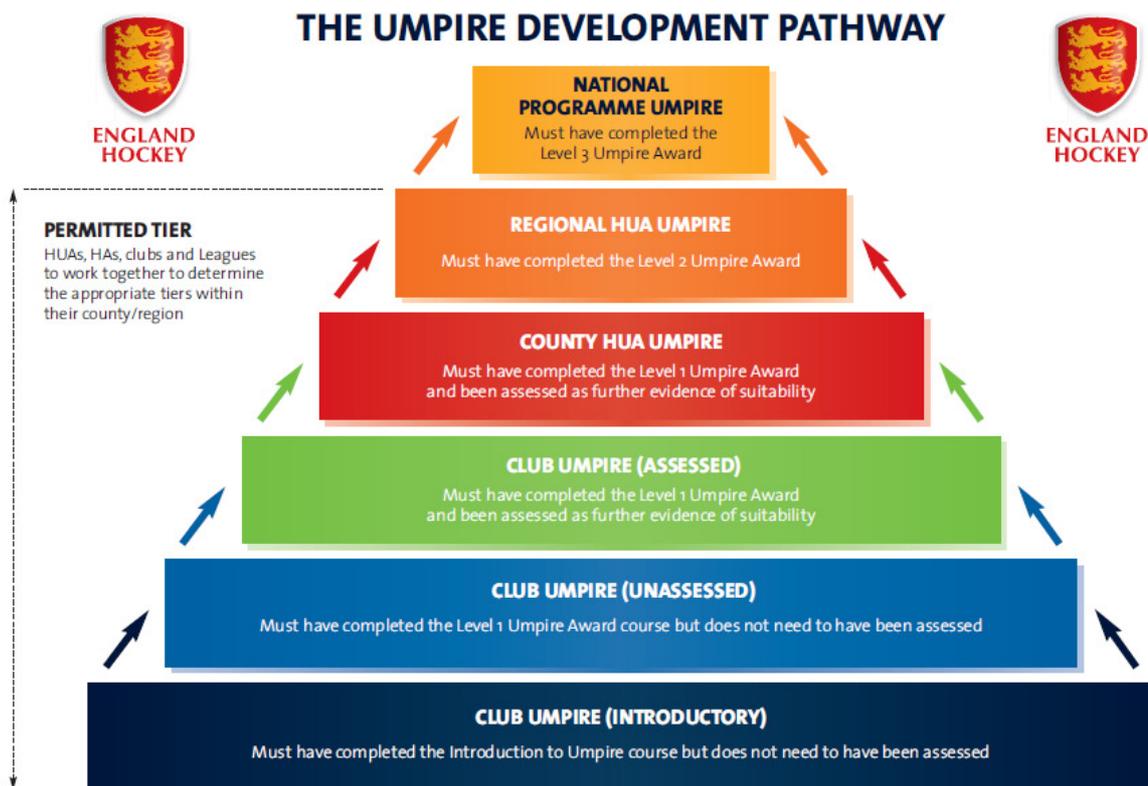
The new Level 1 qualification has been developed with the other home nations and has been rolled out in England, Wales and Scotland. Before attending the course candidates are required to complete the online rules test (<http://rules.englishockey.co.uk>) and print off the certificate or down it load onto a smart phone to show the tutor that they have done it. This rule test is open to all and is useful as a refresher for players, coaches, spectators and umpires alike. As time on the course is not spent "teaching" the rules the tutor can concentrate on "how to" umpire and explain why certain things are done and not done. The course itself takes approximately 6¼ hours and includes some practical pitch time. It can be completed in one day or split into two evening sessions. This course can only be delivered by England Hockey approved tutors - in Yorkshire that is Chis Bowers and Richard Skippings - but more will be trained in the future.

The course comprises of five modules:

1. The Game from the Players Perspective
2. The Role of the Umpire
3. Umpiring Set Plays
4. Player Management
5. Preparation and Planning the Next Steps

Once the course has been completed candidates will be accredited as an England Hockey Level 1 umpire and they will be able to umpire at any level. HOWEVER, it will be the responsibility of the 'appointer' (club, school, university or HUA) to appoint only to games they are suitable for. Furthermore, to umpire at certain levels, they will need to have been successfully assessed. This is currently being discussed by the Yorkshire League Committee and Yorkshire Hockey Association to determine which divisions will require umpires who have completed this successful assessment.

If the umpire then wishes to progress and umpire in the Yorkshire Neutral Appointment Scheme they will be required to undertake a further assessment to ensure they are capable of officiating at that level. To advance further into the Regional (Level 2) or National (Level 3) programme will require undertaking some CPD (Continuous Professional Development) and to be further assessed. This is similar to the present system, with the addition of the CPD element, so umpires won't notice too much change at those levels.



If you are currently a Level 1 umpire for your club then you would automatically be in Club Umpire (Assessed) band. If you have done the old Level 1 course within the last two years you will be an Unassessed Club umpire.

Also to be rolled out next year is a parallel system of support for umpires consisting of Umpire Developers, Coaches and Assessors. An umpire developer would work at club and county HUA level and would observe and provide developmental advice to the umpire. At regional and national level the roles of coach and assessor will be separated and by concentrating on one or the other it is envisaged that the coach or assessor will gain greater expertise in their area. A coach at this level will work with a small group of umpires over a whole season. Assessors would provide a one off snapshot of an umpire's performance which would assist selectors in making grading decisions and, where appropriate, identify areas that coaches need to work on with their umpires.

The new rule books have arrived (Yahey) and will be sent out in the post over the next few weeks (or can be collected on 21st Jan @ the meeting). ☺

There will be a new YHUA membership pin badge attached to the new rules books when they are sent out in the next few weeks, for our members to wear. Wear it with pride, as we are trying to get a corporate image for our organization.

Along with this, we have developed an exclusive deal with Zoti sports for all our shirts and umpire wear including fleeces, jackets, gilets, all match shirts, skins, etc.

Please see the website at <http://www.zotisports.com/shops.php?ci=142>

And go to the Yorkshire hockey umpires shop which will be open the first week of every month. Orders are made up and embroidered, and will then be dispatched by the end of month. Along with this deal, Zoti sports in conjunction with YHUA committee are providing match shirts for Neutral Scheme Umpires, and have offered an exclusive deal on after match shirts for neutrals in a one off deal. We look forward to seeing this corporate image in action over the remaining season.

We also would like to pass on our congratulations to Kamal Matharu (Matty) & Chris Blogg, Who have been promoted in the North to B panel, along with Neil McInnes who has moved up to A panel.*

Well done guys - keep it up!

A warm welcome to our new neutral umpires who have come on board

- Peter Fielding, Steve Smith and our newest member Rowan Tejura (who is just 15!)*

I'm sure you will welcome them and wish them every success.



We are hoping to have an Umpires meeting on **21st January at Wakefield**, for all members to come along meet the committee. The aim is to discuss the new rules, options for joining the neutral scheme (full or part time) and membership of YHUA.

For anyone not a member please bring them along to join.

We will be having a talk from Chris Bowers about some of the rules, and Chris Blogg about the Neutral scheme ...if you are thinking of joining e mail me or come along to the meeting.

If you have any questions for either Chris or the Committee then please e- mail chris.blogg@hotmail.co.uk soon as possible before the evening.

This year's YHUA AGM is to be at Wakefield on 18th April 2014.

Please try and get there.

If you would like to be part of the management committee please e mail Chris Blogg, with your details before 14th March so it can be discussed at the last committee meeting.

If you would like to submit any articles, stories or photo's to the Whistler, please let me know @ jooleymc@hotmail.co.uk

Retirement Farewell:

This season has seen the retirement from YHUA of long standing member Roger Uttley. Many of you will know Roger and will have umpired with him, or been umpired by him, and will know what a dedicated ambassador for our sport he has been. Roger is a former President of YHUA and was on the committee for many years. He is to continue watching hockey in South Yorkshire so we'll all get a chance to share a pint with him after the games that we do there. On behalf of the committee and all YHUA members I just want to wish Roger all the best for the coming years and to thank him for his great service to hockey in Yorkshire and the North.

*Chris Bowers
President YHUA*

Tips from Brian Linfield (A panel lead):

- **Stick above shoulder.** If a player plays the ball above their shoulder you must take action; the action you take depends on the impact / what has been prevented. The exception must be a word, for example if the ball was going off over the sideline. If an attacker has been denied possession of the ball, the normal would be a personal penalty dependent of the disadvantage caused to the opposing team.
- **Defenders Stick above shoulder in Circle.** A defender can only raise their stick above their shoulder in the circle to stop a shot on goal. If it's not a shot on goal and the defenders action prevents an attacker of actual or likely possession of the ball your first thought must be Penalty Stroke and Yellow card. However, if it's clear that the defender thought the ball was going in the goal, even if going wide, and the attack has not been denied actual or likely possession of the ball, i.e. the ball was going off the back line, then a PC and no personal penalty would be appropriate.



And finally....

We are looking to hold an end of season Dinner (drinks, meal and get together) for all YHUA umpires (venue to be arranged). Anyone interested please e-mail me as above (partners welcome) so I can gauge numbers, there will be a deposit required for each person.

DATE: Saturday 26 April 2014 (Finals weekend)