

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleague,
It's time to get all your kit ready for another season of enjoyment, or umpiring as we like to call it. I hope you will enjoy it as much, if not more so, than last season. I know I shall try to do so.

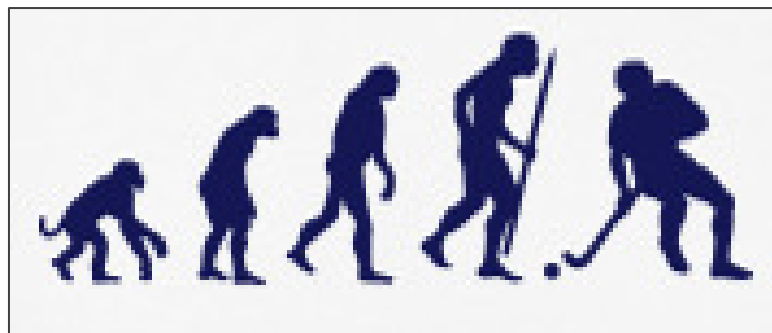
At the start of my Presidency, last year, I asked for volunteers to begin the process of becoming an umpire coach. To date there have been two of our members who have expressed an interest, as far as I am aware, in obtaining a qualification. I am disappointed in this but a horse cannot be watered if it isn't thirsty!! Thus the need for coaches is still there and therefore any suitable volunteers will be welcomed. A suitable volunteer would be an experienced, ex neutral scheme umpire, who had the ability to communicate effectively. One thought did strike me whilst I was writing this note. Do you, the members, want to be coached on a one to one level? Please let me have your opinions on this.

The big change for this season has been the Selection Panel. This is the new system to appoint umpires in the neutral scheme and is designed to replace Ken Stephenson, or at least do the job he did for the YHUA. (Who could replace Ken?) The idea is that each of the four members will undertake to co-ordinate the umpire appointments with both the umpire and the club. There will be some things that come out of the panel that neutral scheme umpires will like and others that they will not. Your views will be accepted and maybe even acted upon!!

As with any correspondence for me, please send it to the address in the YHA handbook, but in case you haven't got that to hand it is;
38 Saville Grove
Clifton
YORK
YO30 6NY

I wish you all a good 2011-12 season, and don't forget,
Enjoy your umpiring.
Take Care
Ross Anderson
President YHUA

*****UPDATE on Young Umpires role in Senior Games to follow in early season*****



WANTED:

Your ideas on a social event and/or venue - annual dinner?
Come one, everyone needs a chuckle and a moan! Why not do both?
Send in ideas - there has to be some "social" members out there!

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Congratulations to...

This Summer saw an exciting event arrive in Sheffield - no, not the latest Take That gig, but the weekend 24th- 26th June 2011, saw EHB Masters host the **2011 Women Masters Home Countries Tournament** at Abbeydale Sports Club, Sheffield.

“Teams in attendance were
Ov40s - England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales
Ov45s - England, Scotland and Wales
Ov50s - England and Wales

Right from the very first games on the Friday evening it was very clear that Lady Masters' hockey is as competitive as any game played by international teams representing their countries so totally belying the assumption that masters hockey is for players who are old and past their best. The passion and commitment displayed by all the teams gave those watching an opportunity to see firsthand what was described by one spectator as “team hockey at its best”.

After 3 days of competition, the winners of the Ov40's Tournament were England regaining the title from Scotland. The Ov45's tournament winners much to their delight for the third year in a row were Scotland. The Ov50s event even though only at the moment having teams from England and Wales in competition was no less competitive and England Ov50s ran out winners on this occasion.” (Deb Wilkes)

The excitement and involvement of Yorkshire Umpires was much in evidence across the weekend, and a great vote of thanks went to Anne Bryant for being a superb Tournament Director, and Abbeydale for hosting a truly enjoyable tournament. Yours truly took the opportunity to be Match Official at as many games as possible - despite the searing heat (a rarity I know for Abbeydale). Gaining my first “international” experience has certainly spurred me on to do more “M.O.”-ing! But despite all the best planning, no-one could have foreseen the immense opportunity that was afforded to two of our own YHUA Umpires - **Christine Renshaw** and **Chris Blogg**. Due to injuries, and other problems our two intrepid Umpires stepped into the breach to ensure that the Ov45 Wales Vs England game could go on. Nervous faces led the teams onto the pitch, tension mounted, the whistle blew.....and they were off! This was fantastic hockey, and even in the soaring heat, after much fierce hockey in the previous matches, the passion to win was evident from both teams. The desire to keep up the high standards of Yorkshire also shone through in the Umpires, and a great game was had by all. So a BIG congratulations for these two showing Yorkshire can be up there with the best (or North at least!), and for gaining their International “stripes” - let's hope it will be the start of many for our Umpires.



Twitter from the Umpires...

TIME AT SHORT CORNERS

Last season I found myself wondering whether putting on protective masks or boxes at short corners wastes too much time or slows the game down. After talking to umpire colleagues about this I thought I'd try to find out.

At the YHA Under-19 Cup in May, between umpiring, I watched some games and recorded how long play stopped at short corners from the awarding of the corner to the injection of the ball. One of the Technical Directors, also recorded matches on the other pitch. A mask was worn only once. So we couldn't compare how masks affected the results obtained. The short games (25 minutes one way) produced an average of 3.6 short corners per game. Scaling this up to full length ones produces an average of 10 per game. Short corner times varied from 15 to 53 seconds, averaging 28 seconds. Scaling that up to full games, the average time lost at short corners would be about 5 minutes. That's roughly what we've been used to in the past.

Would the results from games where defenders used masks or boxes be very different? A few weeks later I was grateful for some more data provided from the County Championships. Here the games were full length and, usefully, half the teams used protective gear and half didn't. The games averaged 9 short corners each, very similar to the previous tournament. The average short corner time with masks was 43 seconds and those without 30 seconds. So there did appear to be a difference. It was only possible to observe 4 games, however, and it must be remembered that delays at short corners can be created by teams contesting the award of the short corner as much as preparing for it. Also, some teams routinely take longer than others to set up their attacking corners.

Are there any tips, therefore, which one can give based on rather limited data like this as well as one's experience of watching and umpiring games? I suggest you might follow the approach used by the umpires at the County Championships:

- Keep an eye on your watch and if teams are still sorting out protective gear, or contesting the award of the short corner, or discussing attacking routines in a huddle, blow to stop time after, say, 25 to 30 seconds, but tell them why.
- Make it clear that stopping the clock means that time wasted will not be taken from the overall game time.
- Although there is no rule about length of time taken setting up a short corner, it's at your discretion if you feel they are slowing down play or time wasting near the end of a game.

Malcolm Barnes.



So, what do we think here? Are the umpires interested - or even any of the players?

Can you caption these - and win yourself a bottle of wine?

Suggestions on an email to the editor!

If you have any photo's you think worth using please send them in.



HOCKEY UMPIRING TOP TIPS and GUIDANCE

by

Chris Todd

EHB Level THREE Umpire Coach and
 FIH Grade One International Umpire (retired)
 World Cup and Olympic Games Panel, 1975 to 1995



WHISTLE

I have noticed during the past couple of seasons the habit creeping in with certain umpires, some of whom are quite senior, of keeping the whistle in the mouth. A lot of things relating to umpiring involve developing good habits, but this is not a good habit for the following seven reasons :

1. It looks awful. The FIH are concerned about a number of umpiring issues and “Presentation” is certainly one of them. Moving round the pitch with a whistle in your mouth looks just like the umpire has a dummy in the mouth and it gives completely the wrong impression to players and spectators.
2. It is a well known medical fact that babies breathe through their noses, but children and adults breathe through their mouths. Keeping the whistle in the mouth increases the risk of the umpire blowing the whistle accidentally while simply breathing normally.
3. The umpire could swallow the whistle!
4. The umpire may blow the whistle too soon and inadvertently spoil a potentially good advantage. Already this season I have seen a good national league umpire do precisely that no less than three times within ten minutes in one match.
5. Umpires are being encouraged more and more as part of their match management skills to talk to players. If the whistle is kept in the mouth, then the umpire cannot talk to the players. This season I have observed one instance where an umpire attempted to talk to a player while he still had the whistle in his mouth and that created quite the wrong impression.
6. The whistle could drop out of the umpire’s mouth onto the pitch and while the umpire is trying to pick it up and recover the situation, that umpire will of necessity have to take his eyes off the players which is not good practice. I have seen this happen this season in more than one top match. It was quite embarrassing for the umpire.
7. There is a view that it looks arrogant. This may or may not be true, but most importantly it certainly does not convey the correct image to the players.

The solution is quite simple and it is to have your whistle on a lanyard or nylon cord with the lanyard or cord attached to your wrist. If the whistle is then held down by the umpire’s side until it is needed, then this looks better and gives the umpire time to bring the whistle up to the mouth and consequently reduces the risk of blowing too early. The other negative points about keeping the whistle in the mouth are therefore eliminated. Tie your spare whistles on lanyards as well and keep them in a pocket.

Next Edition: A contribution from our Disciplinary Officer on completing MMO’s, and reporting other offences.

Available for all YHUA members:



YHUA Hoodie
£20



After Match Shirt
(personalized) £18.50



Reversible Match Fleece
(waterproof) £22.00

All available for
collection or delivered
(P&P extra).

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If you would like to make a contribution to future editions please contact us and let us know/send it on for consideration.