

GHA Annual General Meeting Umpiring Secretary Report - May 2021

This will probably be my final report as GHA Umpiring Secretary depending on the progress of the new England Hockey Governance Reorganisation. In the future, it is anticipated that umpires and umpiring will be developed within playing clubs and under the management of the England Hockey Match Officials Club who will be responsible for all aspects of umpiring below National League level.

Umpiring Courses

Under the current Covid 19 restrictions, all umpire courses are continuously advertised on the England Hockey website and are delivered online.

All umpiring courses require the successful completion of the Online Rules Test, which anyone can participate by signing up to the Hockey Hub at <https://hockeyhub.englandhockey.co.uk/officiating>, registering (or logging on if already registered), and then going through the test.

Assessments

Assessments have been difficult to organise this season. Between lockdowns, three umpires were successfully assessed. However, I am aware that the summer leagues offer a good opportunity for individuals to get themselves assessed.

Meetings

Have this season been attended online. These include meetings of the West Hockey Association Umpiring Committee, Herefordshire Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Umpiring Association (HGWHUA) and Committee Meetings of GHA itself.

HGWHUA

HGWHUA continued to manage, coach, assess and progress neutral umpires who take appointments within the three counties. It is still unclear as to the future of HGWHUA, as there may be some slippage in the timings of the takeover of umpiring and hence appointment of umpires by the England Hockey Match Officials Club

Umpire Shortages

There is a shortage of umpires at all levels of the game. Of immediate concern is the lack of umpires prepared to take neutral appointments at Junior, County and Regional level, particularly in the women's game but this is also reflected at club level when teams are struggling to find umpires each weekend.

In 2003, there were approximately 180 umpires registered with addresses in Gloucestershire known to GHA. In May 2021, there are 196 assessed umpires and 127 unassessed umpires known to GHA, with approximately 180 umpires who have declared themselves no longer active or have moved out of the area.

Mike Sheppard
Umpiring Secretary
27th May 2021