

SCHUA Umpiring Annual General Meeting 2016Date: 23rd February 2016

Venue: ISSC Rushmere Sport Centre

Meeting Opened at: 20:00



Present			
President – John Wilkinson (JW)	X	Elected Member – Mary Burn (MB)	
Secretary – Mason Wright (MW)	X	Elected Member – Andrew Kelly (AK)	X
Treasurer – John Wilkinson (JW)	X	Elected Member – Nick Meakin (NM)	
Appointments Secretary – John Burn (JB)		Elected Member – John Oakley (JO)	X
Dev & L1 Register – Dave Charles (DC)	X	Elected Member – John Seabrook (JS)	X
ERHUA Rep – Steve Mayhew (SM)	X	Elected Member – Sheryl Nokes (SN)	X
SCHUA Members			
Eddie Harmer, Chris Hatch, Hayley James, Leon Jones, Gary Bloodworth, Mike Tilbrook, Jeremy Rennie, Sian Smith, Richard Pittaway, Sophie Southgate, Frances Paul, Isaac Charles, Barry Anderson			

Item	Minutes	Action
Apologies	Michelle Johnson-Last, Julie Spice, Richard Heading, Bill Tasker, Mike Strudwick, Simon Holloway, Ian Brown, Jenny Clark, Steve Farrow, Peter Blake, Nick Meakin, Guy Whiting, Jake Charles, Nikki Butcher, Shaun Wilson, Josh Peterson, Mary Baker, Alan Baker, Chris Rowland, Rod Stone, Mat Crane, John Burn, Mary Burn, Chris Wilson, Trevor Bunce, Graham Ransom, Ray Allum, Mike O'Connell, Tim Hollins, Mariette Rix, Andy Bristow, Tim Blackburn, James Meakin, Marc Lloyd, John Pestell, Shaun Wilson	
President's Welcome	JW welcomed all to the 49 th SCHUA AGM. Congratulations were given to all L1 assessments, and stresses were placed on clubs that SCHUA is "top-heavy" and we are now looking for more club umpires to become county pool umpires. Congratulations to Isaac Charles on his England Hockey Young Umpire of the Year award at the recent EH Awards, which is a testament to our successes in the county	
2015 AGM Minutes	Agreed and signed as a true record of events	
Matters Arising	N/A	
Secretary Report	Taking over the role of secretary from Julie in January was a bit of a baptism of fire into the workings of SCHUA. Being the main port of call for the association is not easy, which I have had to learn quickly, so apologies if I haven't managed to reply to anyone's emails this season! I would like to thank Julie Spice for all her years of service in the role, and for helping me out when I couldn't find things, or needed to get back on track if I got a little lost.	

	<p>Fortunately, this season has seen the new SCHUA website, which I am sure John and Trevor will also tell you, has been extremely helpful to keep all the membership details, appointments and qualifications all in one place.</p> <p>Finally, for those that do not know, Richard Glynn-Jones has left England Hockey to go to work with the officiating side of football, and the new L2 and L3 umpire coach and assessor pathways should be in full swing by the new season, now that the L1 Umpire Developer course have been successfully implemented nationally.</p>	
Treasurer Report	<p>JW presented copies of the accounts to the meeting.</p> <p>The main cost was listed as the new website, however, this is seen as an ongoing benefit to the association.</p> <p>We currently hold £250-£300 worth of umpiring kit as stock.</p> <p>It was proposed, and accepted, that the membership fees and the club fees remained the same for the coming season.</p> <p>Accounts accepted.</p>	
Appointments Secretary Report	<p>When I agreed to be pool secretary for the season 2014-2015 I said it would be for one season only, however after we decided to go ahead with a dedicated SCHUA website which would provide the means to have all pool appointments shown online I said I would stay on a further year to assist the system to bed in.</p> <p>Implementation was not without it's problems but by the time the first appointments were due on 19 September we were able to use the system, we were also able to use it for the appointments for the Suffolk Cup on 12 September. Once the appointments were on the system all clubs were informed via the ULOs as per the East League website. Some clubs though had changed their ULO after the league cut off date for notifications, some ULOs held the post in name only and the work of providing umpires within the club was done by someone else, ULOs were changed mid season without the club informing me & the club didn't give the new ULO a briefing on how they would be informed of appointments, even as late as December I was being asked to email a copy of the pool sheet. By the end of the season all clubs were used to the new system & it should work well, without teething problems, I hope, in the coming season.</p> <p>Umpire numbers were a constant problem throughout the season we often had to appoint clubs to fulfil pool appointments, this again caused problems as some clubs accused me of not informing them of their commitment under East League Rule 5.1.1 & thought SCHUA were making rules up as they went along, they didn't seem to understand that when they enter a competition it was up</p>	

	<p>to them to acquaint themselves with the rules of the competition they have entered. In the end all games were covered & I would like to thank all the umpires who officiated at more than one game a day & the clubs who assisted with appointments, often at short notice.</p> <p>For personal reasons I resigned the post just before the end of the season & next season I will no longer be umpiring in the pool, injuries have finally caught up with me, I will, however, be concentrating on coaching & so, I'm afraid, I'll still be around.</p> <p>John Burn May 2016</p> <hr/> <p>JW expressed his thanks to JB for his work as appointments secretary.</p> <p>Emphasis was placed on East League rule, and the need for umpires who were called up to officiate county pool games to be <u>appropriately qualified</u>, which is down to SCHUA to decide.</p> <p>Also on this point, it was expressed if there was a procedure for complaints about umpires in terms of misconduct. SM reminded all that if an umpire was acting inappropriately in line with misconduct (not ability), he would like to know so disciplinary action can be taken I needed, the same as if it were a player.</p>	
<p>Indoor Appointments Secretary Report</p>	<p>No Report</p> <p>Barry Anderson, JW and JO all remarked on how well the indoor has run this season, and sent their congratulations and thanks to TB for all his hard work.</p>	
<p>UDO Report</p>	<p>In some respects it has been another excellent year for the association. Our senior panelled umpires have once again upheld our standards and professionalism across not only the county or region but also on the international stage. Last AGM we wished Andy Hepburn, Sean Cooper and Nick Meakin well for their candidacy for level 2. Both Sean and Andy achieved an East B panel but Nick went one further and was promoted a second time to the A panel with relative ease! Congratulations to all 3. We await news of Sean's return and wish him well.</p> <p>Alan Baker, Steve Mayhew and Dave Charles maintained their East A panel ratings with Dave getting a nomination for National Indoor, achieving level 3 in January at St Albans, and Steve being appointed to the EuroHockey Men's Masters in August. Dave went on to umpire the EH regional over 40s final at Old Loughtonians last weekend.</p>	

	<p>Richard Pittaway and Eddie Harmer both secured their east panels for another season. Isaac Charles and Jake Charles achieved their umpire developer award which replaces the Level 1 umpire coach award.</p> <p>And now less of the old gits and over to the younger generation.</p> <p>Jake Charles maintained his national indoor panel and umpired well in the East Conference but was appointed to 2nd XI plate final and the mixed Trophy finals. As part of his umpires for Europe programme he went to Dublin and is looking forward to a return trip to Breda later this summer.</p> <p>Mason Wright has been appointed to a number of schools and youth finals event and featured in many higher classification games; achieved his ERHUA A Panel, and has recently learned that his East Nomination for NPDP has been accepted so we wish him well as he strives for level 3 outdoor to match his level 3 indoor. At the beginning of the season, he umpired the EuroHockey Men's Masters tournament at St Albans, and also recently umpired at the EH over 40 regional finals at Old Loughtonians HC. National appointments included the finals of U16B School Indoor; U18G Schools; U18B School Cup QF and the U18B Club Plate Final.</p> <p>Isaac has again progressed leaps and bounds in the past season, performing well and extending his experience at national finals of both genders and all ages he has been present at 5 finals this season including the U18's Boys Plate final. He has also been present at the Sainsbury's School Games, being the youngest umpire at the tournament but umpired the final between England and Ulster. Next he moved on to women's panel A in the East and has ended up on the B☆ panel for men's. At the end of May he won the EH young umpire of the Year award, which has been documented through the SCHUA website. Many congratulations to all the above as they develop their umpiring careers.</p> <p>Within the county we should also congratulate Sheryl Nokes for her performances this year becoming a regular umpire of EML games and in the SHA indoor competitions, a nomination for higher levels indoor and outdoors is a distinct possibility.</p> <p>However.. Although we also congratulate anyone else who passed level 1 it is disappointing to reflect that fewer club umpires are seeking assessment. Clubs need them more than ever and need to do more in the eyes of EH to promote umpiring through the provision of Level 1 courses. Lots of clubs report a lack of female umpires in the system, which is a EH priority but is it time for the</p>	
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	<p>clubs and maybe the men have to make some difficult decisions? Another concern is that there appears to have been no movement in the county on the club umpire development officer role which is seriously disappointing. This role is the only way in which club umpires are going to be valued and nurtured and ultimately retained and improved which is what the players deserve. It's a 3 hour course and only £10 per candidate. Essex have 4 or 5 clubs: Suffolk none. If SCHUA are going to be more dependent on club umpires as well due to our dwindling pool size (due to success and age etc) clubs will be required to supply competent, appropriately qualified, and experienced umpires more frequently. (Refer to Pool Sec report)</p> <p>The national conference is this weekend. Last year's action points are in the minutes supplied. There has been a change at the top and there are now 2 umpires in charge so hopefully there will be movement back in favour of the county HUA system.</p> <p>There is one course proposed for the near future, recently one was held at Framlingham and one is projected for August.</p> <p>SYUAG</p> <p>We have some young umpires Isaac is clearly leading the field but recognition must go to James Meakin who was appointed to National In2Hockey finals this year and also to Jessica Pond who like James was appointed to the East In2Hockey finals in April. Some clubs enrol their younger players on the Level 1 course and rightly so but to what end, many never umpire again begging the question do the clubs have the appropriate support in place to nurture these umpires, again the CUDO position is needed..</p> <p>It was proposed last year to run 2 umpire days at FHC and BSEHC. Unfortunately neither happened due to differing reasons but hope springs eternal.</p> <p>Finally it is time for a change of SYUAG coordinator and one is being actively sought: watch this space.</p> <p>Dave Charles UDO June 2016</p> <hr/> <p>Felixstowe HC looking to do a L1 course at the end of August, and the Bury St Edmunds course should be going ahead, numbers dependent.</p> <p>It was asked how many L1s have been assessed this season – DC believes it could be as little as five.</p> <p>It was then asked why SCHUA would fail perfectly good umpires for assessment, or not being given assessment</p>	
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	<p>opportunities, hence putting them off. DC and MW spoke about the need for umpires who are thought to be ready to be communicated to SCHUA, so we can arrange an assessment, perhaps a job for the Club UDO, who need not necessarily be an umpire themselves.</p> <p>DC also reminded all that it is not SCHUA's job to go out and fail a candidate, but if they are deemed not to be up to the standard required, they would not be passed in line with the England Hockey guidelines for assessment.</p> <p>There are still plenty of opportunities for assessment and coaching during summer league.</p> <p>Clarification needs to be made on umpires for higher associations being put forward by clubs as a member of the county pool – to be discussed at a later date, as there seems to be some confusion on this topic.</p>	
SHA Report	No Report from the meeting, however it is known that the reworking of umpiring guidance in the handbook was voted upon. SM to liaise with Sophie Southgate on the topic.	
Election of Officers	<p>There were no new nominations for vice presidents.</p> <p>President – John Wilkinson Secretary – Mason Wright Treasurer – John Wilkinson Auditor – John Oakley Appointments Secretary – Jake Charles Indoor Appointments Secretary – Trevor Bunce UDO – Dave Charles SYUAG – Dave Charles ERHUA Rep – Steve Mayhew SHA Rep – Sheryl Nokes County Disciplinary Officer – Steve Mayhew Elected Members – Andrew Kelly, Nick Meakin, John Oakley, John Seabrook</p> <p>All of the positions were voted for <i>en bloc</i> by the membership present. Barry Anderson proposed; Chris Hatch seconded.</p>	
Suffolk Club Championships	<p>Nominations were asked for on the topic of club umpire of the year to MW for presentation at the Suffolk Club Championships on the 4th of September.</p> <p>It was asked what constitutes a young umpire. MW told the membership that it was any umpire under the age of 23.</p>	
AOB	Sadly, SCHUA Dinner did not happen this year, due to a few problems with the date and other unforeseeable circumstances. It will be going ahead again next season. Barry Anderson told the membership that is usually used	

	to happen around February time to avoid the end of the season etc. AK told all that Bury St Edmunds now have their second pitch at Culford School, with facilities for all matches, teas and changing at the venue.	
Next Meeting	TBC with the SCHUA Exec Committee (August)	
Meeting Closed	21:25	