



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOCKEY UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

www.buckshua.co.uk

Welcome to the 2013/2014 season

This newsletter is being emailed to all known club contacts. Please pass it on to anyone in your club that you think should see it.

If you have not already done so

- make sure the start times of your matches have been updated
we cannot make appointments without start times;
- update the contact details of your club's Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Umpire co-ordinator and your Club Contacts;

Each week

- confirm match details with any appointed umpires by the Tuesday evening prior to the match. If not, they will be re-appointed to any other match that we had not been able to cover
- grade any appointed umpires soon after each game. Only Andy Sparrow as Appointments Secretary, or his delegate, will see your grading. Your feedback will affect our umpire and coaching/watching appointments.

Appointment policy

We will make as many appointments as possible throughout the season, given the number and grading of umpires available.

Encouraging qualified club umpires to make themselves available for appointments, even once a month, some Sundays or mid-week, would help us enormously, and we will support them and help develop their umpiring. They need to join BHUA and enter their availability month by month. Fixtures and application details are on our website.

If you have any problems with or queries about appointments, please contact our Appointments Secretary Andy Sparrow at andysparrow650@gmail.com

Discipline

Happily there were fewer red cards and matchday misconduct reports last season, but there was a worrying trend in the behaviour of the players at some clubs.

Remember that **the captain of a team** is responsible for the behaviour of his entire team, coaches etc., and spectators, but it is up to clubs to develop and maintain a culture of good behaviour.

Hospitality

They will not always be able to accept, but please invite your umpires to join you after the game. Do not assume they know where the showers or teas are: this is a legitimate opportunity to tell them where to go. It is particularly important for new members to feel welcomed and valued, and to learn from what players have to say. Even the hoariest umpire appreciates the chance to socialise with players, and to discuss points of the game.

Offering some refreshment might not go amiss. It may well be the umpires' second game and a long time since breakfast.

A thought: would you travel alone to umpire a match given your behaviour and the hospitality you offer?

Club umpires

If you are interested in arranging for one of our umpire coaches to come to your club and watch any number of club umpires at one site on a particular day, contact LynnTurnbull [lynn.turnbull@iggesund.com] or Andy Sparrow andysparrow650@gmail.com

This includes young umpires. It is worth noting that last season several Bucks youngsters were part of the South Young Umpires programme. Emily Swales (Marlow) received the England Hockey Young Umpire of the Season and Zoe Baker (Wycombe) the SCHUA Young Umpire Award.

Lynn and Andy run our Young Umpire programme, and Lynn is now chair of the South Young Umpire committee.

Level 1 and BHUA membership

Lynn and Andy will be arranging more Level 1 umpire's courses.

Registering for a course gives you a year's membership of BHUA.

Pass the exam and you become a grade 5, and you are covered by our insurance.

Pass the practical assessment (gain your Level 1), you become a grade 4 and become eligible for BHUA appointments.

Becoming a grade 3 after being assessed on some appointments gives you the right to wear BHUA-badged kit (available from

http://www.hawkinsport.co.uk/clubs-bucks-hockey-umpires-association-c-28_144.html)

Joining BHUA for £15 gives you insurance, access to our coaches, and you will be sent a printed copy of any new editions of the outdoor hockey rules soon after they are published.

Interested? Have a look at the Web Handbook & Downloads section of our website for an application form and for a summary of our insurance cover.

Roger Dobson Hon Secretary secretary@buckshua.co.uk September 2013