

## **Bucks HA Disciplinary Report - season 2013/14**

This has been a busier year for Bucks with seven incidents involving our clubs and I was required provide support for Oxfordshire HA following the sudden death of their CDA and fellow BHUA member Gareth Evans. Once again all incidents involved adult male players so thanks to the ladies for not troubling me for so many seasons.

The seven Bucks incidents resulted in one case being dismissed and seven players suspended as follows

- 1) 07/09/2013 – Wycombe 1<sup>st</sup> XI player suspended for 30 days for umpire abuse whilst spectating – disrepute offence.
- 2) 29/09/2013 – Marlow 1<sup>st</sup> XI player suspended for 45 days for violent conduct – red card.
- 3) 26/10/2013 - Slough 1<sup>st</sup> XI player suspended for 45 days for umpire abuse – red card. Thanks to Mark Ling for dealing with this one.
- 4) 09/11/2013 - ACHC alleged disrepute against an Aylesbury captain for his behaviour towards a junior umpire. This was dismissed for procedural errors but Aylesbury offered a full written apology.
- 5) 30/11/2013 – Milton Keynes 1<sup>st</sup> XI player suspended for 16 days for persistent foul play – red card.
- 6) 22/02/2014 – Slough 1<sup>st</sup> XI player suspended for 30 days for post match umpire abuse – MMO. Captain suspended for failing to name correct player 30 days – disrepute offence. Both have an additional 14 days suspended for 1 year on condition of good behaviour.
- 7) 15/03/2014 – Milton Keynes 1<sup>st</sup> XI player suspended for 30 days for post match umpire abuse – MMO.

It is apparent that umpire abuse is a continuing issue and is reflected in other county areas as well. I have consistently imposed at least 30 day penalties for these matters in accordance with South guidance. I would ask the question, is it worth considering larger penalties to try and reduce this trend?

I would ask that I am notified at the earliest opportunity following the showing of a red card or reporting of an MMO to ensure that clubs and players are fully aware of the ramifications. I had an incident where a person played hockey in breach of a suspension in the Oxon area as they claimed not to have understood the MMO process.

Furthermore the number of red cards compared to the number of matches played remains low and means, in my experience, umpires do not issue red cards without provocation. It is a difficult decision and one that thankfully many umpires never have to make. I can assure all that if one is issued they will have the full support of all hockey and umpire associations.

Mark Rutherford  
Buckinghamshire HA Disciplinary Administrator