



August 2019



Message from the President

Firstly, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the honour that you have bestowed on me by electing me as your President for the next two seasons. I will do everything in my power to further the interests and achievements of the YHUA membership and umpiring throughout the area during this period.

There are changes a plenty in the season ahead, starting with the Rules of Hockey 2019, which come into effect in England from 1st September, but excluding the use of quarters (other than for all Divisions of the England Hockey Leagues and Tier 1 Championships). The standard game for all other competitions will remain at 70 minutes played as 2 x 35 minute halves. Unsure of the impact of the new Rules? I refer you to the excellent explanations offered by Keely Dunn, a Canadian FIH Umpire, who lived and umpired in England for several seasons, which can be viewed via the News section of the YHUA website. Also, I would remind everyone that there is a Rules Update, with Pie & Pea Supper, planned for 11th September at Wakefield Hockey Club. If you plan to attend please let Alistair Copeland know in advance, particularly if you want to enjoy the Pie & Peas!

Following the restructuring of the England Hockey Leagues, with the number of participating teams increased from 40 to 60 for both men and women, all the feeder leagues have had to be restructured also, so all umpires, at whatever level, are likely to face the challenge of umpiring new teams.

Looking further ahead everyone interested in the future of our game of hockey should be aware of the proposals for structural changes to the organisation of hockey in England which will be put to the EH AGM in March 2020 for approval. As currently proposed, and widely accepted at the roadshows that EH have been holding around the country in the last few months, there will be significant organisational changes that will impact on YHUA and its members. Your Committee, under the leadership of Richard Skippings, will keep members and the umpiring community informed of developments as and when they materialise.

Finally, I hope that you all enjoy your umpiring activities during the season ahead. If there are any issues, or matters that you want brought to the attention of your Committee, please get in touch with me or any member of the Committee.

Mike Talbot

President

Meet the Committee

This is the latest band of volunteers who try and look after your interests in the field of Hockey Umpiring. If you see them about say hello, maybe even buy them a drink, and if you have any issues that you want attending to (umpiring wise that is) have a chat and we'll see what we can do for you.

President: Mike Talbot

Mike started umpiring for Doncaster HC in 1991/92 season, obtaining his Level 1 award in March 1993. He was awarded his Level 2 in 1997 and umpired at regional level in the North 1997-2000, the South 2001-2003 and back in the North 2004-2011. He retired from umpiring at the end of the 2010/11 season and took up umpire coaching qualifying as a Level 2 umpire coach in the 2011/12 season. He has also been an England Hockey Technical Official since 2005.



Vice President: Lee Barron



Lee is just about to commence his 15th season on the Men's National League Premier Panel with nearly 200 games to his name. He has umpired in the last 12 National play off and championship finals and the last 17 indoor National Finals. Internationally he has umpired the final in every European Indoor Competition as well as the Asian and African World Cup Qualifiers. His highlight has been to umpire the final of the last two Indoor World Cups. Lee is also a Level 3 Umpire Coach, a Level 1 Tutor and Assessor

Chairman: Dik Skippings

Dik gained his Level 1 in 1991 and spent some years on the Yorkshire neutral panel until young children put paid to that. He returned to the neutral panel when they started playing themselves, gained his Level 2 award in 2016 and currently can be seen officiating in the North Regional Women's League. He has served on the YHUA committee for the past ten years and was the President from 2017 to 2019. He is also an accredited England Hockey Umpire Tutor, Level 1 Assessor and a County Umpire Developer.



Secretary: Alistair Copeland



Alistair finished his playing career in 1985 and dropped out of hockey until he became involved in junior coaching at Leeds HC around 2001. Part of this involved umpiring in the Yorkshire Youth Hockey League. Gradually he became aware that not only had the playing skills changed but so had the rules! Consequently he enrolled on an umpiring course at Horsforth School run by the YHUA. Since then Alistair has progressed from junior hockey to club games

with Leeds HC to Yorkshire Premier League and North Division 2 East. Along the way he has umpired at JRPC competitions and regularly turns out mid-week for the University of Leeds in the BUCS league.

Treasure: Ross Anderson

Ross started playing hockey at school in 1967 and continued with York Trojans in its various guises until 1988/89. He continued his involvement in hockey by umpiring for York CS Trojans and then onto the Yorkshire neutral scheme until 2009/10. He took up coaching after that and will continue until he stops enjoying the best sport. He has been the Treasurer of YHUA since 1996 and also served as President from 2010-2012. He is currently an Umpire Coach assessing Level 1 umpires and coaching our neutral scheme umpires and at club days.



Chair of Selectors: Richard Sykes



Richard has been involved in hockey as a player and subsequently as an umpire since 1978. He started his playing career with Mid Sussex Hockey Club, moved on to Leeds University Hockey and then on to Leeds Adel Hockey Club. Having had to take his turn as an umpire at University and at Adel he realised that this is where he wanted his career in hockey to go and joined the then YCHUA as a neutral umpire in 1987 and has umpired every season since as a neutral umpire clocking up well over 750 games, but as his service pre-dates the game counter by a very long way so no one can verify this number! (Editor's note: 25 games a season x 32 years = 800)

Coaching Co-ordinator: Barrie Pollard

Originally a Kentish Man (Ed: or is it Man of Kent, I can never remember the difference) A ruptured achilles put paid to Barrie's goalkeeping exploits at aged 40 – there was so much more to give (ed: he's not saying how long ago that was!). He joined Lincolnshire HUA and rose up the ladder until he was awarded his Level 2 (Regional) badge with the East HUA. Then came his Level 1 and 2 umpire coaching awards and he was chief coach for the East region for a few years. Finally (much to his Yorkshire wife's delight) he gained the accolade of becoming chief coach for YHUA.



Member (men): Paul McCormick



Paul has been a member of the YHUA neutral scheme for many years and has achieved his Level 2 umpire award. He has served on the Executive Committee for more than ten years and has also served as the YHUA representative on the Yorkshire League Committee. Well known for his love of public transport he can often be found wandering around Wakefield Hockey Club

Member (women): Vacant

If you would like to volunteer for this position please contact the secretary Alistair Copeland. We meet four times a year at Wakefield HC.

Young Umpire Developer: Vacant

If you would like to volunteer for this position please contact the secretary Alistair Copeland. The committee meets four times a year at Wakefield HC and you would be responsible for helping to develop young umpires (up to the age of 21) in Yorkshire. You do not need to be an umpire coach as you will be supported by the associations' coaches in encouraging our young umpires. We are lucky in Yorkshire that we have the Youth League that we can use to bring on our umpires.



New Rules

The FIH Rules Committee issue new rules and guidance every two years. Sometimes there are big changes and sometimes very little. As the game develops then so do the rules in order to keep pace and remain relevant. This time around England Hockey have taken their time in considering the rule changes that came into force on 1st January 2019 and have now, following wide ranging consultation have now announced their decision to come into force in England from the start of the 2019/20 season.

For an interesting read international umpire Keeley Dunn has posted an excellent blog on her FHumpires web page. You can find it at <https://fhumpires.com/the-2019-rules-of-hockey-deconstructed/>

The main points are:

1. In our leagues the game remains two halves of 35 minutes (or shorter for some junior competitions)
2. No more Players with Goalkeeper Privileges (kicking back to us oldsters).
3. Amendments to attacking free hits within the 23m. "Everybody" has to be 5m away even when the free hit is near to the circle (including those players that are within the circle).
4. Defensive free hits awarded within the defensive circle may be taken anywhere in the circle (just like it used to be in bygone years). Note, this does not apply to hit outs (16) after the ball has gone out over the back line off an attacker's stick. That must still be taken in line with where it went out.
5. If an attacker enters the circle early at a Penalty Corner then it is the injector that is sent to half way line.

There are other minor changes and advice, come along to the Social Evening (details below) and find out all the details. Please book your place with Alistair Copeland.

Social Evening

Wednesday 11th September 2016

Wakefield Hockey Club

7.00 pm

Pie & Peas

7.30 pm

Presidential Message

Rules Update

England Hockey Restructure

This is a free event for members of YHUA, come along and find out what is going on, meet your committee, ask awkward questions and socialise with other members of the umpiring fraternity.

Please book your place with Alistair Copeland



We have a closed Facebook group “Yorkshire Hockey Umpires Association.” Here you can ask any questions you may have or enter into discussions about umpiring matters or share your umpiring exploits, amongst friends. If anything crops up in a game that you are involved in or are watching that you are not sure of then ask the question and open it up to discussion and we’ll see what answers we come up with. It can also be a learning opportunity for all of us.

Club Umpire of the Year

At the end of the season YHUA will be awarding a trophy to the “Club Umpire of the Year.” This will be awarded to the club umpire who has given most to the game of hockey in Yorkshire. She/he can be nominated by individuals or clubs if they think they deserve the prize. The winner will be chosen by the Executive Committee from all those nominated. As well as the trophy the winner will receive free membership of YHUA for the following season. So, keep your eyes open for deserving candidates.

