

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOCKEY UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

www.buckshua.co.uk

Dear colleague, welcome to the 2009/2010 season.

2009/2010 promises to be very interesting with new hockey rules and a restructured South League. We will be holding briefing meetings on the new rules, and again using both Oxon and Bucks Cup days for training, coaching, and of course as a social event. The new league structure means that some of the games we appoint to will have novel pairings, often with different playing styles.

Immediate tasks

Please make sure that you keep your personal details and availability (if any) for appointments are up to date, and let Andy Youl have your 2009/2010 annual subscription as soon as possible. At the 2009 AGM our annual subscription was again set at £15.

Remember that when your subscription has been received, *you will be covered by our insurance*. Cheques made out to BHUA should be sent to Andy Youl, 15 Chilton Court, Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, SL6 0PL.

(If you joined us by registering on one of our Level 1 courses during 2009, you will not need to pay an annual subscription until the beginning of the 2010/2011 season).

The new hockey rules, briefings, coaching and development days

You can find an electronic copy of the 2009 rules book on the England Hockey website, and all active BHUA members will be posted a printed copy within the next few days.

David Tobin will be giving a pre-season talk, *including a briefing on the new rules*, at 7.30 on Thursday 3 September 2009 at Wallingford hockey club, and again at 7.30 on Thursday 17 September at Tring hockey club.

Please try and get to one of these meetings. If you can, bring a club umpire or player with you, so much the better.

These meetings have been timed to fit in with the Oxfordshire Cup on Saturday 5 September 2009, and the Buckinghamshire Cup on Saturday 19 September. We will be appointing all umpires who have made themselves available (have you entered your availability yet?) and our coaches will be out in force.

The Oxon Cup will be held at Bloxham School, and games will be played between 9.30 and 14.00. The Umpires' Briefing will be at 8.45 by the pitch. There will be limited changing facilities, and some refreshments available by the pitch throughout the day.

The Bucks Cup will be held at Woughton, Milton Keynes, and games are expected to start at 10.00. The Umpires' Briefing: will be at 9.15, in a location to be confirmed.

If you have not accepted an appointment, do drop in for at least part of either day. Come and meet colleagues, buy or order some kit, and see a game or two with the Coaches. Better still, bring a club umpire or two with you.

Coaching, watching and grades

The Selection and Coaching committee will review everyone's grade periodically. They have already hatched plans for coaching, watching and development during the new season.

Members not taking appointments will not be forgotten. Please keep Lynn Turnbull and Andy Sparrow up to date with what you are doing and would like to do so they can monitor your progress and make sure you are supported [lynn.turnbull@iggesund.com] or [ajs@nwatford.freemove.co.uk]

Umpire's kit

All our members are entitled to buy kit such as polo shirts, pullovers and hats from us (at a price lower than England Hockey). If you are a grade 4 or 5 member, the kit will bear the word 'umpire'. Becoming a grade 3 gives you the right to buy and wear kit bearing the Association's badge.

See the download area of our website for details of what is available, or call in to either of the County Cup days. You might like to reserve items: it will take 4–6 weeks to replace sold-out stock.

Steve Marshall [stephen.marshall36@btinternet.com] is the person to contact about kit.

If you take appointments

Clubs are told they must confirm match details with you by the Tuesday evening prior to the match you are appointed to. If they do not, please contact Simon Seabrook. Some clubs have become quite sloppy and he may re-appoint you another match. We do not expect the problem to persist for long.

We have urged clubs to invite you to join them after the game, and not to assume you know where to go for showers or teas. It is not going to be possible after every match, but please do try and accept invitations. It is particularly important for our new members to make them feel welcomed and valued, and us all to learn from each other and from what players have to say.

As always, we would like you to arrive (at least for your first match of the day) 30 minutes before the start time. Use your time profitably talking about what is to come, as well as being sociable. This is the time when teamwork can and should be built up so that you and your colleague are consistent throughout the match, and from match to match.

Remember that during each match the captain of a team is responsible for the behaviour of his entire team, coach etc, and spectators.

As well as updating your availability and recording your mileage for each appointment via our website, you should record the team and number of anyone you give a yellow or red card to, and add any other feedback on the conduct of both teams.

Clubs are required to use the website to give feedback on our performance after each game, but this is nothing to fear. These comments can only be seen by Simon or his delegate, and will only be used to identify very broad trends in our umpiring, or indeed on the attitude of clubs.

The claimable mileage rate will be reviewed periodically by Council.

Red card or matchday misconduct offence

Before the season starts, please make sure that you know what the procedures you must follow, regardless of the level of game, if you issue a red card (or witness a matchday misconduct offence). Go to the England Hockey website to see the latest Regulations and the Report form. Go to the Web Handbook & Downloads section of our website and read 'Advice to umpires for the completion of red card/MMO report forms', which is almost entirely based on a document from Chris Bond and Hampshire HA.

It is particularly important that you note any involvement of a player under 18 years old.

Mark Rutherford [mark.rutherford@btinternet.com] is again the CDA (County Disciplinary Administrator) for Bucks. Contact details for other South counties will be added to our website, when they are confirmed.

Enhancement to our website

This season you will be able see appointments to higher league competitions. Hopefully you will find this interesting, and you might like to think about watching some of the games (and umpires) of games near to you.

2009 AGM highlights

The addition of Mark Rutherford is the only change to your Council since last season: he brings not only new blood, but also a different perspective as the Bucks disciplinary administrator.

Alec Graham is President and also Chairman of Council, Andy Youl the Treasurer, Simon Seabrook the Appointments Secretary and Jim Patel will chair the Coaching and Selection committee. Lynn Turnbull is the Level 1 coordinator, Steve Marshall the Kit Officer, David Tobin represents us on the SCHUA council, and Andy Sparrow is Membership Secretary. I (Roger Dobson) am the Secretary.

As a result of a proposal from the floor it was agreed that in future, at the end of the each season, annual subscriptions for the following year will be automatically deducted from any claimed expenses. This will reduce the palaver of sending cheques and the risk of your insurance cover lapsing (assuming that we guess correctly the subscription value that will be subsequently agreed at the following AGM).

Andy Youl (long-standing member, perennial fulfiller of umpiring appointments on almost any day of the week, past BHUA auditor, and our Hon Treasurer for more than a decade) was voted a Life Member by acclamation.

A drinks kitty of £100 for the meeting was donated by the Buckinghamshire Hockey Association in appreciation of our efforts throughout the season. (This was in addition to an earlier donation of £500 towards the costs of developing our website.)

The minutes of and reports to the 2009 AGM will be added to the Web Handbook & Downloads of our website.

Roger Dobson Hon Secretary secretary@buckshua.co.uk August 2009