



Welcome back, one and all. After a hiatus of, ahem, some time, the torch of journalistic excellence has been passed by Dawn Bonner to a new hack, who, afraid for his (or her) personal safety, wishes, understandably to remain anonymous. He will be known only by his nom-de-plume – Ian Taylor's Moustache (or ITM).

Pushback is no more, Vive Bully for You! or even Bully Pour Vous!

We aim to provide you with a helpful heads-up on news and events in the umpiring world, from Hampsteads West and Minster to Indian Gym, from Teddington to Southgate and even beyond – yes John there is a world beyond Trent Park.

In addition to the one-man Reuters service that is Colin Howard, we will bring you the latest in Guidance, on rules and reds, on Appointments, on Tournaments and on Socials (last and certainly not least!!)

Your committee, run with the velvet fist in the iron glove by Jane Palmer, ably assisted by Arthur *et al*, work unstintingly hard to make your season as enjoyable and stress-free as possible, and we will let you know (as much as the “need to know” policy allows) what they have been up to and what is underway. Any developments regarding Junior Umpires, Level One evenings, Regional news, you will see it first here.... (hopefully!)

This is fundamentally YOUR Newsletter, so let us know what you want to see in it, what you don't want to see – for example photos of Stuart Fenton's legs, 'nuff said. Drop us a line if there's something you want to share with the rest of the umpiring flock, if you have a rules teaser, or something unusual occurred to you (in a game!!).

So hope you like it, tough if you don't!

We aim to send out a Newsletter just before Christmas, and then again sometime in the second half of the season. We'll play it by ear!

Ciao

ITM



MHUA MEMBERSHIP!

If you would like to become a member of the association, and who wouldn't! please send an e-mail to Colin Howard on colin.howard@onetel.net or ring him on 01895 230027 and he will send you an application form. This should be completed and returned to Colin at the address on the form.

You will also have to send a cheque payable to MHUA to our Treasurer, a certain Colin Howard.....

Subscriptions are as follows:

- a) **Graded Members** - umpires taking appointments from NL, County or South the cost is £12 if paid by end November 2008, thereafter the cost increases to £20.
- b) **Registered Members** – those umpiring regularly within Middx ie club umpires, and whose names appear on the LOR the cost is £8 until end November 2008, thereafter the cost increases to £12.
- c) **Associate Members** - umpires interested in supporting the aims of the MUHA – same as Registered Members
- d) **Junior Membership.** For young umpires up to the age of 18 years old £2 + free Young Umpire T Shirt. Encourage the young umpires you know to get one!

So what do you get if you join MHUA?

You will get the following:

- a) This newsletter throughout the year with news about umpiring in Middx
- b) A Handbook
- c) A free rule book
- d) Coaching and development and any support needed as an umpire
- e) Insurance – this is public liability insurance that is provided as part of your subscription fee. This is very important if anything should happen during a game to an umpire.
- f) Paid mileage – if you take appointments from the association, you will be paid mileage of 20p per mile

LEVEL ONE NEWS

We are privileged to have such a capable Level One Co-ordinator, who is responsible for anything to do with Level One qualification. You can contact him by e-mail on, yep you guessed it, colin.howard@onetel.net !!!

Level One Theory Evenings

There are courses arranged at Eastcote HC on **6th & 13th October**.

Further courses at West Hampstead HC on **23rd October & 2nd November**.

Level 1 Assessments

A reminder to everyone about some additional areas for L1 assessments that can be used as confirmed with England Hockey. These are in addition to the levels of hockey already designated by MHUA in previous seasons. Candidate umpires should also consider assessments on:

- a) Early rounds of the cup competitions - men or women
- b) Good Standard County games like boys U16/U18 & girls U18.

If you are unsure as to the appropriateness of the game ask MHUA and we will let you know.

County Secretaries have been notified that it is up to clubs to find their own umpires for the early rounds of cup competition, so whether you need to complete your 3 games, trying to find a final assessment game or looking for games for L1 retention on the active list, there are lots of opportunities for you. Liaise with your club and they should be able to help.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

MHUA will continue to use your e-mail address for the distribution of MHUA business (e.g. appointments) this season. If you do not want your e-mail address to be used for these purposes you should let MHUA know. This Newsletter will be an E-Letter unless there are specific snail-mail requests....

PRE SEASON 'SOCIALS'

Before we get down and dirty on the Astroturf of battle, the Association likes to bring together as many umpires as possible - from graded members to club umpires – in order to socialize and have a general chin-wag about umpiring issues.

So on **30th September at 19:45 at West Hampstead HC, James O'Hara**, yes it is he, will give a PowerPoint presentation, with his glamorous assistant at the laptop. Rumours abound of nibbles being on offer.

The next date for your diary/blackberry is **Thursday 2nd October at Eastcote HC, at 7.45 prompt. Be there or be hungry!**

To entice you all to attend, we have a guest speaker in **Alistair Clark**. For those who don't know who Alistair is, which might well include Alistair himself, he is one of our leading lights, a National League Umpire, who, I believe, did have the dubious honour of umpiring your humble scribe in a NL match in the dim and distant past... He will give us an illuminating talk on how our decisions can, should and do affect matches. Almost more importantly the beer will be flowing and the curry will be errr flowing as well.

We need to cater for a certain number so, if you are going to attend, please contact mystery man, C**** H*****, on colin.howard@onetel.net or ring him on 01895 230027 latest **by Tuesday 30th September.**

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME

The Association would like to congratulate Jack Harris on his (very recent) successful promotion to Level 2!! Well done Jack, show (us) Oldies the way!

We are also glad to have joining our ranks Jason Ye from Hampshire and Sam Laing from Somerset – welcome to The Smoke, boys!

DULL, OFFICIAL but IMPORTANT STUFF

There are *currently* no rule changes to tax our little minds at the outset of the new season – hurrah! However, as far as **discipline and umpires** are concerned, the main difference is that there will be only **three categories of offences** listed on the **red card report form** instead of seven, which should make things easier for us.

They are:

- a. Where physical violence is not used, attempted or threatened.
- b. Where physical violence is used, attempted or threatened to a player or any other person
- c. Where physical violence is used, attempted or threatened to an umpire or properly appointed tournament or match official.

In this connection, England Hockey have stated that: *“Nobody reading the Code should conclude that this reduction in the number of categories of offence means that incidents of ill-discipline resulting in the award of a red card or which constitute a match-day misconduct offence are necessarily going to be treated any less severely. On the contrary, England Hockey remains determined to ensure that incidents of ill-discipline are punished.”*

COLIN'S CONUNDRUM

We will be teasing your little grey cells with an umpiring enigma.....

At a penalty corner, in what circumstance(s) is it possible for a defender to commit an offence without either a goal, stroke or corner (penalty or long) being awarded?

Prize for the first correct answer received – the opportunity to try to wring a pint out of the first committee member you can find.....

Errrrr that's all folks, © ITM ☺