

Newsletter 2023/2024



Introduction

The WHUA would like to thank all our umpires and officials for the efforts made last season to support the game of hockey in Wales and beyond. Without you going out every Saturday umpiring multiple games there would be no sport - so from the executive committee - thank you.

There are a number of new initiatives coming out this season and we wanted to take this opportunity to give you some information about those before the season starts. Firstly, Spond, I would encourage as many of you as possible to download the free app and join the WHUA community on Spond, it is our new communications platform moving forward - see below on how you can sign up. We also have a new code of conduct for umpires and officials in Wales as well as some information about some pre-season rules seminars.



Spond is a club management app that we are going to start to use to communicate with our membership, it is free and available on both Android, Apple and through a web browser.



You can click on the links for your system opposite or scan the QR codes to access the app. When you register you will need a code - these are below:

NORTH
SGMTS

SOUTH
ITUGJ

SPOND will allow you to receive notifications about potential coaching sessions, cup games, appointments and tournaments within your region.

Newsletter 2023/2024



AGM Round-up

The AGM was held in early July and a couple of important agenda items were passed.

1. The constitution of the WHUA was updated to now only require us to have an AGM every two years to coincide with the election of officers.
2. It was agreed that the WHUA membership fees would stay the same next season (£20), however, after that these would go up 5% year on year - starting in the 2024/2025 season. These will be continue to be collected on our behalf by Hockey Wales.
3. The new code of conduct (see page 3) was agreed on

2022/2023 Fee:	£20.00
Season	New Fee @ 5%
2023/2024	£20.00
2024/2025	£21.00
2025/2026	£22.05
2026/2027	£23.15
2027/2028	£24.31
2028/2029	£25.53
2029/2030	£26.80
2030/2031	£28.14
2031/2032	£29.55
2032/2033	£31.03
2033/2034	£32.58

Wanted!

We are looking at increasing our pool of umpires and technical officials. If you are interested in umpiring outside of your club, potentially umpiring at a higher level or giving technical officiating a go then please get in touch. Mentoring and training is available to help you progress.

To express an interest then

Answer 'yes' to the questions when you sign up to

Spond

or email

umpires@hockeywales.org.uk

Newsletter 2023/2024



Contacts

WHUA

Chair

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Disciplinary Officer*

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*Red Cards and MMO's Only

Code of Conduct

The WHUA Code of Conduct has been updated for the start of the new season. By becoming a member of the WHUA you agree to abide by this.

Any breaches of this code should be reported to
umpires@hockeywales.org.uk

Click below to download
the new code of conduct



Newsletter 2023/2024



Rules Seminars

We are planning on running a rules seminar prior to the start of the season. This will be online only and will be delivered by Clare Barwood, Kevin Roberts and Chloe McCall.

Thursday
14th September
7:30pm on Zoom

Please register by clicking the link below:

[CLICK HERE](#)

WHUA Kit

Club and Regional umpires may purchase branded WHUA umpire shirts and other kit from Bernie and Jane Wheeler. Please email them on Thethreewheelers@aol.com

EHF /FIH



Last season saw a number of milestones achieved

- **Christian Phillips Adams** - was awarded his FIH Indoor Badge
- **Clare Barwood** - promoted to the FIH Advancement Panel
- **Cathy Wright** - accepted on the EHF Umpire Managers Development Program
- **Abby McArthur** - promoted to the FIH International Elite indoor panel

WHUA were well represented with EHF appointments as well with the notable ones being **Clare Barwood** and **Kevin Roberts** who umpired the Boys U18 Championship Final in Krefeld between Belgium and Germany. **Abby McArthur (UMP)** and **Linda Treharne (TO)** represented the WHUA at the Indoor Championship in Germany and **John Taylor (TO)** went to Holland for the EuroHockey League Finals. Finally **Chris Brewer** is TD at the Men's Outdoor Championship in Germany.

Newsletter 2023/2024



Spotlight on...



Meg James

Meg James is one of our National Panel umpires who combines playing for Whitchurch with umpiring. Meg came through our development panel process and has just completed her second European Tournament when she represented Wales in Swansea at the recent Under 18 event. We caught up with Meg to ask her about her experiences so far.



So how did you get into umpiring?

When I was around 18. My club at the time, Gowerton Ladies HC, wanted to get more umpires qualified to help cover our games and I thought it would be a good way for me to help. After getting qualified I started to umpire more games when I went to Swansea Uni and was fortunate to be given a place on the Welsh Development Panel which then led to further opportunities.



How do you balance playing and umpiring?

Playing and umpiring can sometimes be hard to balance. However, I find that being organised with my fixtures and planning in advance allows me to try and organise both around each other the best I can. If I have a week off playing or am playing in a late afternoon game, I will often take advantage of this extra time by trying to umpire further afield. When this isn't the case and time is a little tighter, umpiring in my local league can allow me to fit both in on one day.



Newsletter 2023/2024



What support have you add on your umpiring journey?

I have been really lucky on my journey to be supported by panel leads, umpire managers and colleagues – who are friends in reality! The support I received, particularly on Development Panel, was probably the most key support to my current journey, during a period where I think I developed the most.



How did you find the experience of European tournaments?

I've really enjoyed both of my European tournaments. Last year in Switzerland was a little further from home than that of Swansea this year. However, the unique experience of Hockey 5s in Basel was a really challenging but fun experience. Being in a different country, working with a range of international colleagues and teams was certainly an adjustment and different to what I was used to, but such an enjoyable opportunity. Conversely, being in my hometown of Swansea this year was more of what I was used to – but the buzz of a European tournament was the same. Again, building on last year, it was really nice to build and extend those relationships with new and familiar people, hopefully show my umpiring development from last year, and on top of everything, show off my hometown to everyone!



What advice would you give to anyone starting out?

If you are thinking of picking up the whistle and think it would be something you'd enjoy – do it! Get involved with some more social hockey first and see how you find it, it's a great way to contribute to the game we all love! If you then want to take things higher, do as many games as you can and start making connections with people – everyone is always looking for an umpire! Overall, I think the key piece of advice I would give is, make sure that whatever you do works for you and that the enjoyment is there throughout!



Newsletter 2023/2024



Development

It has been another strong year for development. A particular highlight was the appointments to the Youth Cup Finals. Our aims were to pair more experienced umpires with those who were getting their first tastes of umpiring in a cup final setting, whilst providing an enjoyable and supportive experience. Feedback and mentoring was also given on the day. I think this was an incredible success, with all coaches satisfied and complementary about the standard of umpiring produced.

Following on from this, I am delighted to announce that Liv Turner and Liam Wade will be joining the Development Panel, in order to work towards their Level 2 award!

Another exciting milestone came in the form of George Marshall's first senior Welsh umpiring appointment. He umpired Wales vs Scotland in one of the three games held in Cardiff in June. He said of his experience;

"After a summer filled with Masters Hockey tournaments, it was an unforgettable and priceless experience to be able to test everything I had learnt at the highest level. These opportunities keep me passionate about umpiring and engaged with furthering my development through the coming seasons. The pace, passion and control shown by these international athletes was even more apparent when you are in the thick of it. Managing the game to maximise their ability to play was a challenge I thoroughly relished. A massive thank you also has to go to everyone in the WHUA for their continued support and coaching. The experience has contributed to making me more excited than ever for the start of the new season."

Congratulations to George - aka Topknot - an accolade you thoroughly deserved after all your hard work over the last few seasons - and not the last I am sure!

Level 1

The WHUA are working with Hockey Wales to tweak the level 1 umpire course, those being signed up will hopefully get three online sessions as well as a practical session for their assessment. We are working with Hockey Wales to establish suitable dates for these. Keep an eye on the Hockey Wales website for dates of courses.

