



NHUA Report to NHA AGM 2017

Once again, we have had a very successful season in fulfilling all umpire appointments bar 6 in the Women's Div 1 in the NE and 1 at Brooklands. However, this has only been achieved through umpires from the Men's Panels taking some women's games and umpires doing two games. In addition, on many Saturdays because of injury, illness, the success of our NPDP candidates or NPUA requests there have been no reserves left. Also, the availability of umpires on Sundays is very limited and yet the programme of EH Competitions seems to be ever increasing. Many thanks have to go to Annette Badger for all the work she puts into umpire appointments. Invariably significant changes have had to be made at the last moment due to umpires pulling out for various reasons.

Thus, one of our priorities for next season is to increase recruitment onto the Women's Panels and try to resolve the difficulties faced in the NE as well as continuing to recruit onto the Men's panels.

To that end part of the NHUA strategy next season will be to again ask our L2 umpire coaches to work within their counties to help progress potential L2 umpires to NHUA. We will of course maintain competences by ensuring the L2 umpire coaches also get some NHUA coach appointments.

The Chair and Secretary of the North Regional Young Umpire Action Group have resigned due to work pressures. Replacing them is a priority.

In addition, the feedback from teams has been more positive this season which suggests that there has been an overall improvement in the standard of umpiring although there is still obviously scope for more which we shall try to address next season.

Many umpires have been congratulated upon achieving personal success in gaining their L2 Award and joining the NHUA or promotion to B* or the A Panel. Our NPDP candidates – Sophie Parker, David Eldridge, Mike Graveson, Ed Westbrook, Simon Allen and Mike Smith all gained their L3 Award and membership of the NPUA.

Appointments were made to all the Indoor Competitions and several umpires are to be congratulated on gaining their L1 Indoor umpire award or progressing to the next panel, including Gemma Jones and Kevin Roberts who have been awarded their FIH Indoor badges.

This season the NHUA has also been active in the development of L2 Umpire Coaches and, in the absence of a process and procedure from EH, has produced documentation for the L2 Umpire Coach Award which was accepted by EH and following one subsequent amendment will be extended to the rest of the country.