1. **Introduction**

The conference took place at Silhillians Sports Club & Conference Centre on Saturday 15th June 2019. It was attended by forty-eight (48) people, representing thirty-one (31) Hockey Umpiring Associations (HUAs). This was the seventh conference of its kind and was attended by a similar number of delegates than the previous years’ conference. The conference programme is shown in **Appendix 1.**

1. **Welcoming Comments & Introductions**

Chris Reece, Vice President of England Hockey, welcomed all delegates to the conference and highlighted the opportunity the HUA Conference presented in allowing the share of best practice and networking between all umpiring associations, to service hockey the best way they can.

Steve Tabb, England Hockey Workforce Training and Development Manager, introduced the content of the day’s conference whilst setting the topics for discussion within the wider England Hockey strategy.

David Elworthy, England Hockey Officiating Relationship Manager, then led an interactive session highlighting the key achievements within Officiating from the past 12 months.

1. **Umpiring “Vision Group”**

David Elworthy introduced a piece of work that has been in place for the past 18 months called “The Vision in Umpiring”. He then introduced two representatives of this group, Colin Jones (Midlands HUA rep) and Annette Badger (North HUA rep) to present the work that has been undertaken by the group and future actions, details of which can be found in **Appendix 2**.

1. **Working Group 1 - Officiating Management System**

Stephen Tabb, England Hockey Workforce Training and Development Manager, led a presentation on the work England Hockey have done to progress a single Officiating Management System, following the request of one from the HUA Conference in 2017.

General Functionality around umpires setting availability and viewing appointments and recording expenses was demonstrated.

Questions were raised covering a number of subjects, but at a high level covered the following areas (all of which will be possible within the new OMS – though not necessarily at initial go live – indicative dates for items being available indicated below):

* Additional Training for Umpires and Committee/Appointers – Training provided by 1st August
* Setting availability by “level” (currently done on up to 3 different Tex Solutions systems) – controlled in initial launch version by adding notes to availability, but will be available to be tailored by “level” in future
* Umpires to accept receipt of appointment on system (from 1st August); declining appointments will still be managed “off system” through contacting appointers.
* Work to be done to standardise and formalise Umpire Support forms and Team Feedback forms – 1st August
* Discussions around different profiles being linked to a user login to use systematic control of risks associated with someone with high levels of access accidentally actioning things in the system when they believed they were only acting as an umpire – item for further discussion
* Some usability options around saving updates – 1st August
* Notifications being sent to umpires and appointers about changes – 1st August
* Configurable Mileage policies – most in place by 1st August, but with some bespoke options to be added after initial launch (as some HUAs have different policies)
* Data Integration – to become available once England Hockey data warehouse is fully functional and will be looking to ensure that any updates on any system (club, league or OMS) will update the other systems with changes automatically.

For those County Associations who are interested in seeing the system in action, please contact David Elworthy for further details.

1. **Working Group 2 – Benefits of Membership for a HUA**

David Elworthy facilitated a working group for delegates to discuss the Benefits it offers for a HUA. Below are the three questions that delegates were asked to discuss, with common themes of feedback being as follows:

1. **What benefits to membership do you offer to your members?**

* Governance benefits, such as 3rd Party Insurance, DBS checks, Support in completing Red Card Report Forms & Disrepute Forms
* Umpiring & Umpire Support Progression Pathway benefits, such as neutral appointments, coaching, assessing, Umpire Support development, Member educational evenings
* Kit benefits, such as loan schemes for radios, some “free members” kit in areas (such as shirts, jackets)

1. **What benefits would you like to offer your members?**

* Social events around domestic finals / international matches
* Moderated Social Media chat facilities for HUAs to engage and educate members
* Revalidation of members / accreditations
* Support frameworks to engage Club Umpire Developers

1. **What benefits would you like to offer with support from England Hockey**

* Centralised store for HUAs to access Umpire Kit (shirts / clothing, etc) and Radios
* Relevant, standardised materials for HUAs to deliver member educational workshops / evenings
* Where possible, guest speakers from EH to speak on topics for umpiring education

1. **FIH Rules of Hockey 2019 Update**

David Elworthy led on a presentation on the FIH Rules of Hockey 2019, explaining the amended rules in detail for delegates. David Elworthy also discussed the research that has been undertaken by England Hockey on what effects the change to Quarters could have on our domestic game nationally. Due to on-going conversations with the FIH, an announcement will be made as soon as possible by England Hockey on the implementation of these rules ahead of the 2019/20 season.

1. **Operational Updates within England Hockey**

Steve Tabb led a presentation on the internal operational changes that have occurred within the Workforce Team at England Hockey over the past 12 months, the future plans for the Workforce Team and what this means to HUA’s. Details of this can be found in **Appendix 2.**

1. **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

David Elworthy closed the conference notifying the delegates about the England Hockey AGM Resolution Roadshows, detailing the dates, times and the process for enrolling to attend this.

The conference closed at 4pm.

**APPENDIX 1 – CONFERENCE AGENDA**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Saturday 15th June 2019** | | |
| **Time** | **Topic** | **Facilitator/Presenter** |
| 1100 | Welcome, Introduction and Housekeeping | David Elworthy / Steve Tabb |
| 1110 | Reflections on 2018 in Umpiring & Officiating | David Elworthy |
| 1125 | Umpiring “Vision” Group – Where we are and where we are headed | Annette Badger / Colin Jones / David Elworthy |
| 1145 | Working Groups –  Benefits of Membership of HUAs  Officiating Management System (OMS) | Group  David Elworthy  Lewis Sewter (WTU) / Steve Tabb |
| **1245** | **Working Lunch** | |
| 1330 | Working Groups –  Benefits of Membership of HUAs  Officiating Management System (OMS) | Group  David Elworthy  Lewis Sewter (WTU) / Steve Tabb |
| 1445 | Working Group Feedback | Group |
| 1500 | FIH Rules of Hockey 2019 Update | David Elworthy |
| 1530 | Umpiring Operational Updates within England Hockey | Steve Tabb |
| 1545 | Wrap Up & Next Steps | David Elworthy / Steve Tabb |
| **1600** | **Depart** | |