

August 2021

London Hockey Officiating Newsletter

Chair Update: Tim Forte

Following the London AGM on 26th July, everything is now in place for the start of the season, and the Committee administering and supporting officials in London is as follows:

| Role | Name | E-mail |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|
| Chair | Tim Forte | officiating@london.hockey |
| Appointment Lead | Peter Mackintosh | appointing@london.hockey |
| Development Lead | Julie Ferrett | officiatingdevelopment@london.hockey |
| Club Liaison Lead | Georga Reed | officiatingclubliaison@london.hockey |
| Young Umpire Lead | Chris O'Hagan | youngumpires@london.hockey |
| Technical Officiating Lead | Stephen Mason | technicalofficiating@london.hockey |

It will come as no surprise that over the past 2 years (and more) amazing amounts of work have gone into getting us to this stage. There will be more to do, and there will be teething troubles, as always, but we are confident that we will be ready for the 2021/2 season, providing all Officials with the best experience no matter at what level and with what aspirations.

Many of you will be familiar with or at least know about the Officiating Management System (OMS) that replaced the Tex System a year or two ago. Now, England Hockey are rolling out the Game Management System, which is a major upgrade improvement to OMS, and will be online soon – so watch this space.

Read on and see what's happening, and who your Committee is and what they plan to do. We are here to service the game, on the one hand, appointing to as many league fixtures as we can, and to maximise your potential and enjoyment as an Official.

We are your London Area Officiating Committee administering Officiating in London, supporting you and all our colleagues in EHO London Branch.

Tim

EHO Update

England Hockey Officiating Club EHO: Countdown to Launch

We hope that you've been staying safe and enjoying all of the hockey on TV from Tokyo recently, whilst preparing for the start of the 2021/2 season.

As communicated previously, we are delighted that we are getting closer to the launch of the EHO – a unified club, servicing the country but with local delivery through the new 8 Administrative Area Companies across the country. This approach brings Officiating the opportunity for the following:



- To deliver a standardised approach to the recruitment, development and retention of all Officials across the game
- To develop high quality, easy to access, development resources for Officiating at all levels
- To create a transparent, easily navigable career pathway for officials, which is structured to enable all to perform to their full potential
- To use technology effectively to streamline processes, free up volunteer time and benefit from economies of scale.

What happens next?

We are finalising the joining process for individuals via the England Hockey Game Management System (GMS) and conducting testing to ensure that things run smoothly from W/C 16th August.

We will be inviting individuals to join the EHO from this time and we will be in touch before the launch date with the "How To Join" instructions – such as choosing London as your Primary Area.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the EHO please click here to see our FAQs, or e-mail the EHO Administration Team – officiating@englandhockey.co.uk or Tim at officiating@london.hockey

EHO Update

Club Match Officiating Training Sessions

With the upcoming season, England Hockey's Technical Appointments Panel (TAP) are hosting a series of free workshops, encouraging individuals to come along and learn the basics on how to become a Match Official, operating within clubs or for TAP in the English Hockey Leagues.

The session will cover:

- The role of the Match Official
- What activities the Match Official will undertake during a game
- How the Match Official can add to the players experience of the game

The sessions are being run on the following dates:

- Thursday 26th August
- Wednesday 1st September
- Monday 6th September

Please note, you will only have to attend one of the above sessions.

These sessions are available to book now on the England Hockey HockeyHub. Please click [here](#) to sign up to the sessions.

EHO Membership Tiers

| Benefit of Membership | Bronze Membership | Silver Membership | Gold Membership |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Access to "free" content on the Hockey Hub | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Quarterly Newsletters from EHO & Area Officiating Committees | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Priority Window Access to all GB / ENG senior International match tickets | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Priority Window Access to EH Competition Finals tickets | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Invites to National Development Days | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Unlimited Access to the Members Area on the HockeyHub for enhanced offering of video library and support materials | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Unlimited access to workshops | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Discounted rate for National Development Days | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Insurance | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Undertake Independent Appointments within Area / National | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Receive "on match" coaching and assessing | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Support in building a "Personal Development Plan" to help you develop | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |

As shared previously, to encourage Officials from all levels of the game to come on board as an EHO Member, the above Subscription Tiers will be available.

For individuals under the age of 18, or under 24 and in Full Time Education, we are offering a "Junior Membership" with the same benefits as the Gold Membership at a substantial discount.

London Lead Updates

Officials' Survey

If there are any officials – Umpires (L2, L1, Club Umpire, occasional umpire, aspiring umpire), Umpire Support, or TAP – who are yet to complete our London Area Survey / Questionnaire, it would help us to help you, if you could complete it ASAP... many thanks! Whether you want to get to NPUA or just help out your club, your college or your team occasionally, it really would help us to have all the info, so please do complete the surveys in the blue box.

We are also keen to get an idea of who has what kit, in what colours and also what radios people have, there is also a survey for this.

Umpire Survey: <https://forms.gle/BKX5ZXYHYJEXksv38>

Umpire Support Survey: <https://forms.gle/g5eYXL7SgBqz3kT47>

Umpiring Kit Survey: <https://forms.gle/inZiVbsqvvgPK8vW7>

Work is going on behind the scenes in relation to kit and radios, and as soon as we have some definitive answers as to what the position will be, we will let you know.

Appointments: Peter Mackintosh

Meet the inaugural London Appointing team. All five have years of umpiring and hockey experience between them and have all been involved with some of the predecessor counties and regions that make up the new London area.

The fixtures have now been published for the London area and they can be found at:

<https://fixtures.englishhockey.co.uk/>

There will be opportunities for everyone who wishes to take appointments across the area so please make sure you join the new EHO (see below) and add your availability on the new GMS platform, which is being rolled out mid-August. For anyone who is able to enter their availability now onto OMS (e.g. if you got Allan Notman's email) this will be transferred across, so please do so!!

We are currently looking to appoint for friendly fixtures, before the leagues start, which will either be done through GMS for all fixtures after the 27th August or by email for fixtures before the 27th August. Clubs with friendly matches organised, who would like appointed umpires, should contact:

Tim Forte (Chair) - officiating@london.hockey

Peter Mackintosh -(Appointments Lead) - appointing@london.hockey

We will work out how best to appoint umpires to your fixtures.

Appointing Team

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Peter Mackintosh | Men's Premier |
| Neil Murphy | Mens Division 1&2 |
| Dan Carter | Women's Premier |
| Keith Boddy | Womens Division 1&2 |
| Graeme Hope | Universities & Schools |

London Lead Updates

Technical Officiating: Stephen Mason

As Area Technical Officiating Lead (ATOL) it is my job to represent all technical officials in London on the National Technical Appointments Panel (TAP), to provide training and workshops to both new and existing officials, and to make appointments to any area competitions as required.

I have been a technical official for several years, and have operated at all levels of England Hockey events both indoors and outdoors, as well as one EHF competition, and a handful of international matches.

Those of you who wish to umpire as well as act as a technical official, when signing up for the EHO please indicate London as your Primary Area and TAP as an additional / Secondary choice. There will be plenty of opportunity to be a match official in the expanded National Leagues, and hopefully I will be able to run an introduction course once conditions allow.

If you have any questions or would like to hear directly about any future training sessions please send me an email to technicalofficiating@london.hockey

Club Liaison: Georga Reed

Your club liaison team, led by Georga with her deputy AJ, are the link between clubs and yourselves as umpires throughout the season.

About Georga

Georga can often be found between the posts at her home club West Hampstead Hockey Club (WHHC), taking neutral umpiring appointments and occasionally both(!). During the last five seasons, she has held committee positions at WHHC and within the Middlesex Hockey Umpires Association, giving her a well-rounded experience of both clubs and area officiating committees.

About AJ

On Saturdays and Sundays, AJ can be found umpiring in both the Mens and Womens EHL competitions, where he is in the Men's B and Womens B* panels. . Over the last 2 seasons he has been on NPUA Exec and is currently the NPUA Fitness Co-ordinator. He has previously been on the SCHUA committee and back in NZ was a committee member of Auckland Uni Hockey Club and Auckland Hockey umpires bringing a wealth of global experience.



Pictured: Georga

We have some big plans for the coming season - focusing on building relationships with every official throughout the area, achieving that sense of belonging that you may have felt with your previous Associations and ensuring vital information reaches where it needs to. This all culminates into a mammoth task we cannot do between the two of us, so we are looking out for volunteers to take responsibility for a small group of clubs. As a volunteer, your role would be to pass on information and support occasional events. If this is something you'd be interested in doing, please get in touch at officiatingclubliaison@london.hockey

London Area Admin

Development: Julie Ferrett

The new league season is upon us, with a lot of new people on board. My name is Julie Ferrett and I am the new Development Lead for London. I'm a level two coach and level two umpire and hope to continue doing both in my wheelchair. I am lucky to have a top assistant helping me - Gary Smith who is also a level 2 umpire.

The Development Team will be helping the current umpires, coaches and assessors access all possible support for progression and improving your knowledge of the game and officiating.

We are really keen for clubs to put forward nominations for umpires to receive first coaching and then assessments, as we want everyone to be able to enjoy and learn how to be an umpire and maybe head towards becoming a coach or assessor themselves.

In addition, we are hoping (at the moment, in these times of Covid) to have Zoom development webinars for everyone to take part in, ask questions and give feedback on umpires, coaches and assessors. In due course the intention is then to have development meetings at a club so that games can be played and people have the chance to pick up a whistle and watch it all in action.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact the Development Team, as we are always open for any queries and want to make sure that everyone is given an equal opportunity not just the us current umpires, coaches and assessors - officiatingdevelopment@london.hockey

Have a great season everyone

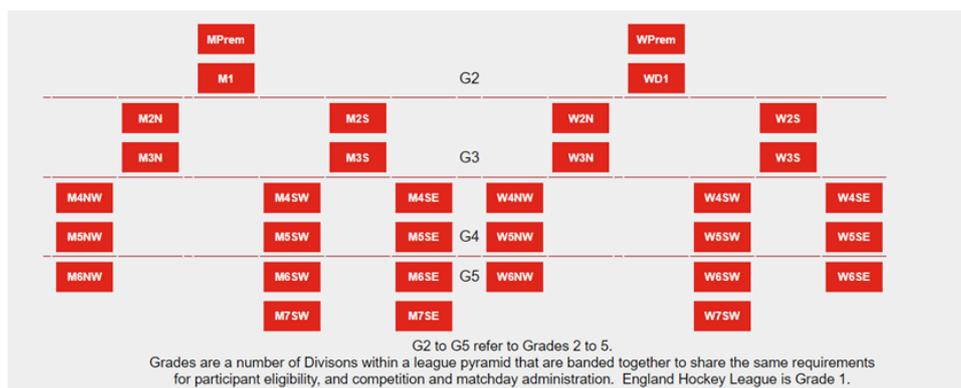
Ferrett (most of you know me by this name more than Julie!!)

Fixtures

As stated above, fixtures have now been published for all of the various divisions within our London Area Leagues – they can be found at:

<https://fixtures.englishhockey.co.uk/London/mynewshow.asp>

Each division has been allocated a grade – where Grade 1 is the EH Hockey League (Premier, North and South and the Four Conferences) and our top two Divisions – Women's and Men's Premier and 1 – are Grade 2, with lower leagues down to Grade 5:



The grades will have some relevance as different umpire requirements apply to different grades. All will be documented in the league rules, that are to be published shortly. We expect to appoint to those top two Divisions.

London Area Admin

Expenses

Starting from scratch here, EHO comprises the 8 Areas (and NPUA & TAP) and is governed by the Officiating Working Group (OWG), which consists of the Leads from all 8 Areas and NPUA & TAP. We have been working to maximise the expenses / remuneration for our Officials from appointed matches, and it is still an ongoing process, as Areas finalise budgets and set fees for clubs. As soon as we have a confirmed position we will, of course, let you know.

Website/Tech/Social Media

Over the past few years, we have all moved away from phone calls, in person meetings and the like for selection / appointments etc. Now with GMS coming on-line, we will take this to the next level. The Websites of the old Associations will become largely moribund, but London will have its own brand spanking new Website very soon. As soon as we do, we will let you all know. On that will be all the documentation, guidance and links that you would expect, and we will be trying to make it as user friendly and helpful as possible.

London Area has its own Twitter Feed and Instagram both are: @hockeyforlondon

We officials have our own Twitter Feed and Facebook pages – do like / follow etc – for helpful information and useful chat:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LdnHockeyOffcls> (@LdnHockeyOffcls)

Facebook: “Hockey for London Officiating”  <https://www.facebook.com/LdnHockeyOffcls/>

Well, that's about it for now. There will be news soon no doubt, with EHO going live, GMS coming on-stream etc. So keep your eyes peeled, and head over to our Twitter Feed and Facebook pages for updates.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – we are here for you (corny I know, but true!).

Tim Forte

Chair

London Area Officiating Committee / EHO London Branch

officiating@london.hockey