



**\*\*HAPPY AUTUMN\*\* \*\*HAPPY SAMHAIN\*\***  
**\*\*HAPPY HARVEST\*\***

<p>Middlesex Hockey Umpires Association</p> 	<p><i>BULLY FOR YOU</i></p> <p>*****</p>
<p>25<sup>th</sup> September 2009</p> <p>SEASON 2009/10 NUMBER 1</p>	

Well, welcome one and all!! Welcome to perhaps the most fundamentally different season of hockey you will umpire since Arthur bought a new whistle in 1873. No sorry, since some genius did away with that stupid offside rule!

Hopefully you have read up on the new rules, and are all ready willing and able to officiate in this bold new world. We have a never-before-seen photo of Al Clark and Stuart Fenton trying out the playing side, to see how different it is....



Ok, maybe not, but not that far off – I sense the FIH will be introducing this in the 2011/2 Rules Book!

The new rules dominated our preparation for the new season, from the end of the last, through the summer to the Rules Meeting at Eastcote a fortnight ago.

As Tex Lane underlined to us, important as these new rules are, we must not forget the rest of the rule book or indeed the rest of our umpiring ethos.

Now more than ever, with our numbers a little, incey-wincey bit on the low side, with discipline a little, incey-wincey bit shaky, now more than ever we need to fight to maintain the standard of hockey in Middlesex and the ethos of hockey as well. As Sir Don Bradman said of hockey players' summer sport, "*we are all custodians of the game of cricket and we should preserve its values*".

This should apply no less to us – we are (one side of) the custodians of the game of hockey, and we should also preserve its values. Remember back to your youth – harder to access that part of the hard-drive storage for some as it may well have been over-written a couple of times – to playing at your local club in the mud – friendly, fun and full of bonhomie. Let us strive to regain that. Let's play our part! Ok, homily over, soapbox put away for a few months!

Sorry to say but this issue is a little shorter than before – a dearth of information due to the temporary sidelining of our Secret Squirrel news (and nuts) gatherer. I am sure we all wish our Secret Squirrel all the best and look forward to seeing him around the Astros of this worthy County. I will try my best without his, invaluable it must be said, input....

Thanks for reading

Ciao

ITM



## **SOCIAL / NEW RULES MEETING**

We are all indebted to Tex Lane and David Howell for giving their time to edify us as to the real new rules

- “free-hits within the 23” (yes not the “25” Timur! Very Imperial!)
- “self-pass” or “auto-pass” not sure which of these sounds less silly
- “shot at goal” – as with the rule change a couple of years ago, telling us that “the winner of the match is the one who scores the most goals” (d’uh, you think!) – we know now what is a shot at goal....
- “when is a goalkeeper not a goalkeeper” etc

Despite having read the rules cover to cover (honest, no really I did!), and having watched the various PowerPoint presentations from people with undecipherable accents, there was no substitute for a dedicated seminar / tutorial from the Capo dei Capi of NPUA Rules, with his glamorous assistant DH....

More importantly, the curry was up to its usual standards, the chapattis were lovely, but I still didn’t manage to wangle a drink out of Jack Harris! Typical Student! But I did get Fenton’s chair.....

## **AGM**

On that note, didn’t we all have a lovely time the day we went to Eastcote, for our AGM, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009? The curry was equally fine on that occasion, and no, no drinks forthcoming from Le Harris!

Discipline was a key issue once more, with the Committee confirming their view that it is a vital area to which their attention will continue to be devoted.

On a happier note, the proud and exceedingly deserving recipient of the F Burnside trophy was the outgoing Saturday Appts Secretary, Gurmit Bhamra. His shoes are being filled by none other than Ian Blackaller – I am sure Gurmit wishes Ian all the best, well he would if he could stop laughing at the thought of all that free time he will now have back!! Thanks again to Gurmit for his sterling work.

## **COLIN'S CONUNDRUM – SECRET SQUIRREL'S STUMPER**

*(You wouldn't believe the dearth of synonyms for Conundrum beginning with an "s"!)*

Apologies if you remember this, but just checking you were listening!

Q. An attacker shoots at goal, the goalkeeper saves by kicking the ball (unfortunately) straight back to the attacker. He then tries to slap-hit the ball back towards goal, but just before he does it bobbles, and flies off the edge of his stick, up in the air (safely) towards the 23, where it descends towards a defending player but it arrives at him at a height level with his head.

What can that defending player legitimately do?

## **RULES HOTLINE**

Despite the very helpful talk, slideshows, PowerPoint Presentations etc etc, there will doubtless be some among us who are, shall we say, less than confident in their understanding / interpreting of the new rules. To that end, MHUA are providing a Rules Email Hotline, manned (or should that be "personned") by two luminaries of the Hockey firmament – David Howell is a National League Umpire (and yes, Tex's glamorous assistant) and James O'Hara is a National Umpire Assessor and President of SCHUA. If you have any queries please call 0898 69 69 and dial 123 for David or 456 for James. Sorry, what was that James? It's an email hotline, oops sorry, just drifting off into my part-time job as a chat-line owner.... So if you have any queries, please email them as follows:

[dhowell1@ntlworld.com](mailto:dhowell1@ntlworld.com)

[jamesoh@itfc.com](mailto:jamesoh@itfc.com)

## **COLIN'S OTHER CONUNDRUM – No Googling allowed!!**

1. Which countries have won Olympic gold in both Men's and Women's Hockey?
2. Which country won the first Olympic Gold Medal in Women's hockey?
3. The first Olympic men's match to be decided after a penalty stroke competition was....?
4. Name the England Goalkeeper on the bench for the World Cup final in 1986.

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That's it, that's all I've got for you. Have a great season – enjoy the new rules, as Tony says "They'rrrrrrre Greattttt!"

Your humble scribe and his team of censors look forward to seeing you around about the County!

Any comments on this, or info for next, Newsletter – [itsmoustache@btinternet.com](mailto:itsmoustache@btinternet.com)

Toodle-pip

ITM ☺