



END OF THE ~~WORLD~~ SEASON EDITION

<p>Middlesex Hockey Umpires Association</p> 	<p><i>BULLY FOR YOU</i></p> <p>*****</p>
<p>28th April 2010</p> <p>SEASON 2009/10 NUMBER 3</p>	

I know it is too early to make jokes about Eistafelkokacolafalafel, we should wait for the dust to settle. But if there are any loss adjusters out there - Iceland goes bankrupt, then it manages to set itself on fire. This has insurance scam written all over it.....

Doomed, doomed, we are all doomed..... Ragnarök is fast approaching – the portents are clear, the harbingers unmistakable... The end of the Season is Nigh!

AGM – Thursday 3rd June – Eastcote Hockey Club 19.45 sharp

What are these signs, oh Master, I hear you cry? Well, I'll tell you:

- Arthur has taken off his gloves – it's actually sunny;
- Ian B & Ian F are packing away their appointments scrying runes and Ouija boards;
- The Howard is rattling the petty-cash tin at us, enticing us in;
- La Presidente is dusting off the AGM stopwatch in time for this year's record attempt;
- Eastcote HC and their brigade are warming up the AGM curry pots.....

Hopefully you all have enjoyed this season with the great new rules, and have enjoyed the previous Newsletters – any praise and rewards please email them to itsmoustache@btinternet.com ! Any complaints to the Editorial Team of Edwin and Colin!!

Ciao ITM ☺

NEW RULES – Have you coped?

Subtitled – Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh HOWELL's Mystic Question

The renowned guru and mystic (or is that mystery?) Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh David Howell has been meditating (not always during the game, it must be conceded) and pondering the imponderables, asking the unaskable questions....

What is the sound of a one-handed mime clapping in the forest over a single fallen tree?

Why is Alistair soooooooooo..... errrr..... Scottish?

With the new rules, predominantly the self-pass, how much do we, the umpires, contribute / cause some of the yellow cards that we dish out – by allowing advantage after advantage until finally the last perpetrator just goes too far or the victim of umpteen hacks finally snaps and retaliates?

Have you analysed that aspect of your whistling this year? It's a new, or perhaps better put "a newly altered", aspect of our influence on the game, which bears some analysis.

Given the ever-present issue of discipline (more of which later), we have to take cognisance of our role in the whole business – we are there, not for our own benefit, not to implement rules for the sake of implementing rules, we are there to ensure a smooth, safe and enjoyable game of hockey, we are, yes I am going to say it, facilitators. We are not pedantic ticket inspectors, well not all of us anyway, we are (hopefully) lovers of the game of hockey, helping and not hindering the skill and invention of the 22 players on the pitch. It should be a cooperation not a conflict!

OK enough of my McKinsey / Accenture clichés! But you get the point.

NEW RULES – Have they changed the game?

One of our number, a bit of a thinker, was wondering whether the new rule changes have led to a difference in play and results over previous seasons –

- Are there more goals?
- Are there less goals?
- Is there a greater disparity between the top and bottom sides?
- And what about discipline this year – better, worse or much the same?

Our intrepid report – Alain Renaud's Moustache (no relation) has done a swift comparison of the London League Premier Division over three seasons – this season, last season and 2000/01 (his last season as player and captain, and as far as the records go back, ouch that makes him feel old!)

Bear in mind that this season Old Georgians fell by the wayside and didn't complete the season, thus all stats for 2009/10 do not include goals scored against Old Georgians, and that means that the stats are for 20 games, as opposed to 22 games in the 2008/9 and 2000/1 seasons:

Division Winners:

2009/10 – Goals for 97 (2nd place scored 89 and 3rd scored 74)
Goal difference 66

2008/09 - Goals for 91 (curiously 2nd and 3rd both scored 97 and conceded 47)
Goal difference 56

2000/01 - Goals for 87 (2nd scored 81 and 3rd scored 77)
Goal difference 49

Bottom Club (excluding Old Georgians for this season!) :

2009/10 - Goals against 73 (9th place conceded 59, and 10th conceded 92!)
Goal difference -44

2008/09 - Goals against 119 (10th place conceded 92 and 11th conceded 71)
Goal difference -96

2000/01 - Goals against 120 (10th conceded 63 and 11th conceded 69)
Goal difference -98

And what does all of this tell us? Well, amongst other things:

The average goals scored per game, the average goals scored per game by the top 3, the average goals conceded by the bottom 3....

	2009/10	2008/09	2000/01
AVG GOALS PER GAME	2.93	2.96	2.54
AVG GOALS SCORED BY TOP 3	4.33	4.32	3.71
AVG GOALS CONCEDED BY BOTTOM 3	3.73	4.27	3.82

Possibly the 2009/10 figures could be notionally adjusted to take account of the loss of the drop-out whipping boys, but there is not really that much difference in the seasons – the 3.73 figure is probably the most deserving of adjustment as that would probably have been closer to the 2008/09 figure as the 9th placed team only shipped 59 goals, whereas the drop-out whipping boys would doubtless have let in many more over 22 or even 20 games!

So although it doesn't look like the new rules have really led to many more goals, recently it appears that the gap between top and bottom has widened slightly, to mean a few more goals, but more by the top and against the bottom than generally.

How about discipline? How does that stack up compared to last season?

Last season – 3 acts of violence against players and that disgraceful 3 player attack on an umpire, together with 11 cases of abuse to or swearing at an umpire.

This season – 3 acts of violence against players, 1 threat of violence to an umpire. As far as the ubiquitous umpire abuse is concerned – 11 again. With a couple of “other”.

So it doesn't seem to have got worse this season, and we don't seem to have won the “red race” this year – that may be Kent. This nevertheless leaves us with another unhealthy crop of MMO's or Reds stemming from words uttered to or at us.

It would be interesting to know what our tolerance level is and / or should be..... Is it consistent? Do we feel “that's XXXXX” in one game merits red, but not in another....?

Does Ian feel that “oh f*** off” to a decision so merits, but I do not?

Would be interesting to hear people's views? Would be good, IMHO, to have a consistency of approach across the association...

Do you feel swearing should be viewed differently to directed abuse or accusations of cheating or bias etc?

(Thanks to Ali Toner for her sterling work as Discipline Officer and for providing me with the figures)

COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE SUB-COMMITTEE

For a wide number of reasons, not least efficiency, time-saving and general common sense, the Executive Committee have concluded that Complaints by and about members, and discipline issues within the Association would be best dealt with by a dedicated Sub-Committee. That has been set up under the delegatory powers of the Rules of the Association. Come the AGM, the Membership will be asked to formalise the situation by amending said Rules as required. Should anyone have any queries or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact Tim Forte, the Chair of the current incarnation of the CDSC.

WEBSITE

For those of you who didn't know, Jason Ye is in the process of updating the website. There is a beta version up at www.mhua.org.uk/new - so please go to the site, have a look and email any thoughts to Jason – suggestions on colour (that fetching dusty pink?), any further action shots of Jason that you'd like up on there, content you'd like to see etc! jason.z.ye@googlemail.com

COLIN's CONUNDRUM – by way of DAVID's DILEMMA

As disclosed in the last edition of our esteemed organ, this was the fruit of The Howells fevered imaginings (more of which later). However, when John Hurst's Moustache (co-ed) interviewed The Howell at Southgate last week, his ageing memory needed refreshing so he had to ask The Howell to remind him of the answer.... D'Oh!

To wit – and I quote - if the hit at goal is 1 metre wide of the goal then presume it is a shot at goal. If it is 3 metres wide then class it as a pass. If it is something between the two then make a judgment call!

As The Bhagwan Howell once said – “any the wiser?”

COLIN's PIECE (as it were)

This season we have had 104 Level 1 umpire course candidates, 2 failed the written test (!) but 1 achieved full marks (even more !!) - subsidised shirts available.

33 Foundation young umpire course candidates - we give free shirts and umpire resource packs – excellent news!!!!!!

Course tutors welcome - contact Colin Howard if interested.

Appointments, nearly 300 in all, split fairly evenly between Ian Blackaller (Saturdays) and Ian Fitzgerald (Sundays & Mid-week)

We now have 369 qualified umpires in Middlesex, 215 are members of MHUA (join MHUA annual sub £8 - free public liability insurance and free rule books & umpire management DVDs).

Not sure how Ian B feels this season's Saturday's went but I am sure we need more active umpires, so Roll up, Roll up!

THE HOWELL

What can be said about this man, that hasn't already been said and more rudely by Alistair? What many of you will not appreciate is that, although he only looks 19, he has now clocked up 250 (with an 'l' !!), yes two hundred and fifty, count them, half a five hundred, matches on the National Programme. It is an absolutely amazing achievement. He joins a very select band of only 4 other umpires to have passed that milestone: Tex Lane, Terry Norwood, Nick Lockhart and Tony Kelleher.

In honour of his longevity, tolerance or whatever it is that has kept him going all this time, my brother editor John Hurst's Moustache trekked to the wilds of Trent Park to track down the mythic Howell beast and find out what makes him tick – Casio apparently (ha ha, almost laughed there!)

JHM – When did you first pull on the garish cerise or tango orange?

DH – Well the starting point was September 1988. It seems a long time ago, probably because it is.

JHM – Have you enjoyed it?

DH - The majority of my National League career has been very rewarding and enjoyable, but that's not to say that there haven't been some low points.

JHM – Like what?

DH – Well, like throwing my toys out of the pram in 1994 when it became clear that the Selectors really didn't rate me, not sure that the players liked me too much either!

JHM – Bit of an occupational hazard, non?

DH – Indeed, but this was after six years of travelling the length and breadth of the country in the days when there was sponsorship.

JHM – Well you've certainly proved a point now. But what did you do back then?

DH - I took a couple of years out of umpiring, went back to trying to wield the stick and to coin a phrase "I came back a new man". MHUA had a lot to do with my reincarnation, they asked me to umpire Indian Gym Vets against Hayes Vets with Colin Howard and I honestly enjoyed it.

JHM – Ahh, the great Howard! A veritable meeting of minds. Did your playing colleagues not try to dissuade you from hanging up your stick and picking up your Fox 40?

DH – Err no, in fact several of them were pleased to see me give up what was a frustrating return to playing.

JHM – So how did your Second Coming progress?

DH - The climb up the umpiring ladder really started seriously in 2003 when I umpired my first Mens Premier EHL game. I plied my trade in front of a new group of Selectors and they seemed to like what they saw, I was promoted to the Mens Premier and subsequently awarded my National Badge. In 2006 I started to umpire a few Ladies National League games and was soon placed on their Premier panel.

JHM – What about the future, now that you have broken through the 250 barrier?

DH - I have just been regraded, at my instigation, onto the "A" panels in both genders - not really taking things easy, just recognising that the games is too quick now at the top level for an umpire who is over 50 years of age. I have also just been placed on the NPUA assessor panel.

JHM – Well congratulations from the Association both on that appointment and your landmark! Any words of wisdom for our members before we go.....?

DH - The demands on an umpire have changed greatly over the years, but with your colleague you are still the third team on the pitch. There will always be ups and down in umpiring as in any walk of life, just make sure you enjoy and do it to the best of your ability.

JHM – Wise words indeed, that we would all do well to take to heart. Thanks again David and congratulations. Oh and by the way, how is the foot, you know the one that got whacked by the ball while you were, ahem.... looking the other way.....

DH – I didn't come here to be insulted, I get that at matches! I'm off. When will you whippersnappers learn to respect your elders, now where did I leave my bath chair.....?

Well what does that leave us with, after all my witterings?

Well it leaves us the answers to the two major quizzes of the last issue:

- i) the quotations from film and TV;
- ii) the crossword.

QUOTATIONS

I will give you the film and real quotation....

- "So I wore this ridiculous thing, for you!"* My Cousin Vinny
- "That's in every contract that's what you call a Sanity Clause.
You can't a fool me, there ain't no Sanity Clause"* Marx Bros, Night at the Opera
- "Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more;
Or close the wall up with our English dead.
In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humility:
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger;
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,
Disguise fair nature with hard-favour'd rage"* Henry V
- "Me and Jenny go together like peas and carrots"* Forrest Gump
- "How can I read this there are no pictures"* (Disney's) Beauty and the Beast
- "Don't forget politicians like to panic, they need activity....it's their substitute for achievement"*
Yes, Minister.
- "And who are you? His bodyguard?"
"No, his gardener!"* Lord of the Rings, The Two Towers
- "Ogres are like onions...."* Shrek
- "I know what you're thinking. "Did he fire six shots or only five?" Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement I kind of lost track myself. But being as this is a .44 Magnum, the most powerful handgun in the world, and would blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself one question: Do I feel lucky? Well, do ya, punk?"* Dirty Harry
- "Who loves ya baby?"* Kojak (obviously!)
- "It's good night from me
And it's good night from him!"* Two Ronnies
- "Ooh you are awful...but I like you"* Dick Emery
- "I just want you to know I have always loved you"* Blues Brothers (the Illinois Nazis)

Small bit of related trivia – according to Hollywood armourers there are only two stars of Hollywood films who did NOT blink when firing “guns” in films – who were they? And what was the irony about one of them and the films that made him famous.

CROSSWORD

It appears that this was too tough for you brains out there! Really I mean!

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 3 | This esteemed organ (5, 3, 3) | Bully for You |
| 6 | Moustachioed maestro (5, 6) | Alain Renaud |
| 7 | Prince of Centre Forwards double Olympic Gold winner (7, 9) | Stanley Shoveller |
| 9 | Keeper essentials (4, 3, 7) | Pads and Kickers |
| 14 | Master of whistling and signalling at full tilt (8, 3) | Santiago Deo |
| 16 | Balls (10) | Kookaburra |
| 17 | Our colour of choice (NOT!) (6) | Cerise |
| 18 | Where did they get those acid colours? (3) | Obo |
| 19 | 1986 and all that (9) | Willesden |
| 20 | Game banned in England in 1363 (6) | Hockey |
| | | |
| 1 | Hero and Staffs Newsagent (5, 8) | Imran Sherwani |
| 2 | Our tool of choice (3, 2) | Fox 40 |
| 4 | Hockey mad MP (4, 12) | Rick Charlesworth |
| 5 | Great hockey film (4, 2, 5) | Chak de India |
| 8 | La Presidente (4, 6) | Jane Palmer |
| 10 | When is 18 inches not 18 inches? (9) | Backboard |
| 11 | Hampstead and Lusitanians stalwart (4, 5) | Dave Dixon |
| 12 | Fifty seven goals for GB (4, 5) | Sean Kerly |
| 13 | Greatest ever goalkeeper (3, 6) | Ian Taylor (or Tim Forte, almost fits) |
| 15 | Hursty's favoured kitmaker (7) | Mercian |

Well sore unimpressed with the lack of responses or attempts to get this right!! Due to apparent lack of interest on your part, lack of time and energy on my part, there will be no Crossword this issue. I'm taking my ball and going home, so there!

FURTHER CONGRATS

Well done to Jason Ye, Jonathan Scott and Tim Forte for passing their initial screening game, and good luck at your next hurdle – the official out of county watching, next season!

Well that's it for now. Any thoughts, suggestions, comments to itsmoustache@btinternet.com

Toodlepip

ITM ☺