

## **Umpire's Section Meeting 2019**

### **Copsewood Community Room, 3 June 2019**

Attending: 45 Umpires out of c110

**The session was led by Denise Barlow, Liz McIntyre and Kelly Ward.**

Denise welcomed everyone.

Last year we focussed on terminology, self-assessment, jewellery and smoking & vaping. This time we'll look at other hot topics.

Denise gave a special mention to Grace Hollis who is a new very young umpire who is umpiring regional games in her age group and doing very well.

Kelly Ward will be taking over as Chair of the umpire's section next season. Kelly is regularly umpiring higher netball including regional, national and with Wasps U21s, and can often be seen on the television at the officiating table at Super league games.

#### **Umpires Section Speech of the Chair for season 2018-2019**

Well ladies and gents it has been a fairly quiet season for me having decided to hang up my whistle. I thought I would have the time to observe and support all umpires but that proved not to be the case too many holidays of course I'm not complaining. I am hoping to be around a little more next season but once again it's watch this space. I know there have been some challenges with finding umpires, I know Michelle thanks all those that stepped up and did games for her at the last minute often switching their game to help. We didn't suffer too badly with the weather but there are still questions about guidance when games should or shouldn't go ahead, I would remind clubs that umpires have been told to apply the common sense approach and players should wear appropriate clothing for the conditions obviously keeping within the rules. Given that we all have access to the website please clubs use this to understand protocols for umpires, scorers timekeepers and one which will be added shortly, players. The website is not just for the umpires benefit.

I will leave it to Liz McIntyre to say how well Coventry & Warwickshire Netball League Umpires have performed this year. As I mentioned last year the UA Award becomes defunct at the end of this season. We are fortunate that we now only have 2 who hold that award and they have attended the C Course and therefore, are covered to umpire games up to and including Division 6. Whilst only one person was assessed for the premier division as promised we did get out to observe those CA's that have held the award for some time, not everyone was observed so that process will continue into 2019/2020. Remember if you want to progress umpiring in the premier division you really need to be umpiring Division One on a regular basis. I would like to thank Liz McIntyre for her continued support of umpiring in the Coventry area and all the hard work she puts into C courses taking place in the Warwickshire area. If you have anyone interested in attending an Into Officiating course there is an expression of interest form on our website.

Congratulations to all those umpires who have contributed to games at regional level. We continue to be complimented about the standard of umpiring in this area and long may it continue.

I will remind the clubs that our umpires work hard at their sport and they should all be recognised and appreciated by their clubs and the teams they umpire for. We as umpires need to show professionalism, an interest in the game we're umpiring, assertive but not aggressive and smile so it looks as though you are enjoying contributing to the spirit of the game. Just as a reminder to umpires be professional in your approach to the game and not familiar on court, when the umpire takes the court, they are independent of any club.

To my surprise Kelly has agreed to take over from me as Chair of the Umpires Section, I know I'm handing over to safe hands and sound knowledge of her sport. I shall still be around supporting both the sub-committee and you umpires. So finally, I look forward to a new season with team white umpiring with good movement, change of pace, loud whistle and voice without being officious, correct terminology, hand signals and an independent viewpoint.

### Liz McIntyre, Warwickshire County Umpire's Report

Courses from May 2018:

**B Course:** 1 delivered.

**C Courses:** 4 delivered

**Into Officiating Courses:** 4 delivered

Assessments from May 2018:

**B Award**, written assessment – Debbie Everard. Have asked Zena when next one will be as B courses organises by Region

**C Award**, Hannah Carminati, Charlotte Jones, Asha Winterflood-Rivers, Abi Canning, Grace Hollis, Maria McHugh, Sally Semple, Jackie Bradley, Hayley Leeson, Bernadette Medford, Emily Brett. Plus 4 from Stratford  
**Pre-Assessments**, 4 passed

**Into Officiating**, Macy Caldwell, Sara Skelcey, Megan O'Grady, Laura Cross, Jenny Pritchard. Plus 4 from Stratford and 4 from Rugby.

Summer league is being used for assessments. So far, we have 4 passes, Georgia Brown, Debby Daynes, Hazel Mann, Charlotte Oackman. Into Officiating passes, Amy Bates and Emma Chapple-Hyam. We have more to come.

General:

- Pleased that the keenness and commitment to improve have been shown by those recently passed
- Large waiting list for courses
- All courses followed up by me, which is voluntary and takes up a lot of time. Good we have interest
- Could do with an afternoon with teams for game practice after course
- Fantastic that we have an interest. It takes a lot to follow up courses
- I can't do anything about B courses but have asked region for another. Umpires are expected to be umpiring at region level or at least Prem Div. in Coventry and must be committed

There are no official mentors in Warwickshire as there has not been a course since 2002. This is being looked into. However, if anyone wants mentoring, they should be prepared to pay for at least travel expenses for the supporter. At the moment, if anyone wants help, you can contact the league or me.

### Constitution

Denise highlighted that it's still vital that umpires are completing 8 games in the C&WNA senior league of which 2 can be counted from the junior league if needed. If you're umpiring in the junior league only, then 6 games must be completed.

It was suggested at the Council meeting that CA Assessed umpires in our premier division are known as CP umpires, so C umpires assessed for the Premier division. The floor agreed that these were still sensible, and nobody wanted to suggest any changes for the umpire's section of the constitution.

### Protocols

Protocols were sent out at the start of the season and are on the C&WNA website. So please print these out, refer to them, self-assess and carry them with you.

There is a useful self-assessment online which you can use. Be aware of your fitness, change of speed and ability to keep up with the game for the full four quarters at the division you're umpiring.

Kelly said that divisions 5-7 have many fast and skilful players, so working on your fitness outside of the game, and mimicking umpiring movements is crucial. It doesn't matter what level you are umpiring at, everyone needs to be at a good standard of fitness. All of this, including mental awareness and controlling the game will all show commitment to players. Let's be self-aware and honest with ourselves.

Denise would like to see more umpires cut an acute angle to reach the goal line faster and go past the post. Also, have great interaction with the other umpire, maintain eye contact, talk at breaks about how the game is going and what you are seeing.

Kelly said at regional and higher netball generally, umpires check nails together, so go over to both sides and check nails as team white. Everyone thought it was a good idea, so we'll do that from the start of next season and add it to the protocols. Kelly also reminded us to get the ball at every quarter and come together.

As there are so few senior umpires to mentor, consider videoing yourself so Kelly, Denise and others can watch it for you and offer tips. Again, people thought this was a great idea.

We talked about a scenario where a player left the court after getting frustrated with herself. This was a game versus Leamington, and we talked about what happened and what should have happened. If a player leaves the court in this way, a replacement can't be made, and the position stays vacant for the remainder of the match, unless of course it is the Centre.

Please ensure that scorers stand together. Just have one official timer, and if there is a second person who would like to time, then ask them to time injuries and quarter/half times. We take a common sense approach about injuries, but when being assessed you will need to time injuries.

Remember, simultaneous breaking at a centre pass where neither player touches the ball is not a tossup.

We went over the competencies of umpiring and how to be the best you can.

We do sometimes get attitude from players, but Denise is seeing this dealt with well.

One umpire (Leamington) gave an example of a player swearing and being very aggressive when she was playing in a game, and this was aimed at a very young player. It wasn't dealt with at the time. We had a discussion with the panel and the audience. Because of the severity of what was said, the intention and the aggression that came with it, it could have been a standing off offence rather than a word, then a caution then a warning then a standing off. This kind of behaviour is against the League's code of conduct.

Please let the committee know if an incident of this nature happens, we can support umpires and players and where necessary hold a hearing. Umpires are also encouraged to write incidents on the back of the form. Denise and Kelly want to support umpires as does the committee.

Kelly said she knows it's hard sometimes as it feels confrontational with players. But act as a team with your other umpire. She also talked through the standing off process for 2 goals.

An umpire (Alvis) gave an example of where she had players laughing and didn't know how to handle it for the best. It was disrespectful to players and umpires. Kelly recommended calling time, speak to the other umpire, call over the captain of the offending team, and ask her to speak to the team about playing in the spirit of the game. Allow her time to call the players over.

There is lots of guidance on the website including expectations around game management.

Another umpire (Stockton) asked about dealing with spectators. Sometimes you can hear them criticising you or your team white colleague. Denise said we will develop some protocols for supporters, and you can award a free pass to the opposition or if it continues a penalty pass. Ask them to move away from you.

All CAPS clubs have a code of conduct for spectators, so it will be great for them to ensure everyone is aware of their responsibilities.

It was asked if we can put in another order of white C&WNA Umpire's jackets. Anna will take orders and Helen will submit this at the start of the season. We need at least 20 to fulfil an order.

Kelly asked everyone to show their appreciation to Denise for her significant work as Chair of the umpire's section and the work she continues to do for officiating in our league.