

Northants County Womens' Hockey Association in conjunction with England Hockey are holding a Hockey Umpire Forum on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at Kettering Hockey Club, starting at 7.30pm.

We are delighted that David Elworthy who is the Officiating Relationship Manager at England Hockey, will be leading the evening along with Jaime Cox an EHL umpire.

The Forum is an opportunity to discuss and clarify umpiring anomalies that crop up week in week out, and will therefore be an extremely informative evening for not just umpires, but players and coaches too. We expect ALL umpires who officiate in the County leagues to attend, as we are aiming to create consistency and uniformity in decision making within the leagues. We also welcome potential umpires who have recently attended a course or who are thinking of officiating in the future.

It is essential that at least one representative from each team that plays in the county leagues attends, so that information is fed back to their relevant team mates.

The format of the evening will consist of clarifying common scenarios within a match situation, use of video clips to explain umpiring decisions, use of headsets and radio communications whilst umpiring and an open question and answer session. It would help if we had prior notice of any particular issues that David can address. Please can you email Sarah Blason [slb@sprattonhall.com](mailto:slb@sprattonhall.com) with any umpiring queries prior to September 13<sup>th</sup> as these will be forwarded to David ahead of the Forum.

England hockey are fully aware of the umpiring constraints that clubs face and as a result they are taking steps to address these ongoing issues. They are launching a Club Umpire Development Officer module with the hope of creating an active line of assistance for clubs. More information will be available on the evening.

The county are also initiating a "Sporting Club of the Year Award" which will be chosen by the umpires who officiate matches within the leagues. Further details will follow on the evening of the Forum.

Please also keep an eye on the County website <http://ncwha.clubbuzz.co.uk> for details of future umpiring courses and how to be assessed if you have completed an umpiring course.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at Kettering Club house.

Sarah Blason

Chair N.C.W.H.A