

From: Barry Holmes ebholmes@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Sussex Men's Open League up-date. Latest Newsletter 3 February 2018
Date: 3 February 2018 at 22:29
To: Barry Holmes barryholmes@uwclub.net

BH

Dear Colleagues

A few quiet weekends post the Seasonal break - I have either been too tired or too damp to write, and also there has been little to say as the second half of the season was getting underway. Not too different this weekend, but I feel I have remind all that the league secretary is still alive if not always kicking.

While I have been silent over the last few weekends, I have been creating a minor storm around the county with the award (is that the correct word?) of the first half of the season fines for match sheet and umpiring offences. Certainly increased my email traffic as well as the County coffers. The offenders know who they are and I am pleased that most have already paid what is due. However, I am hoping we will now get 100% MRS returns and lose that source of income.

We still also need a bit more effort on getting new umpires both for the Men's (and Ladies) appointment pools and across the divisions and club games. I am happy to umpire a couple of games a Saturday and if the legs can stand will even walk through a third game to help out the club sides, But hockey through the county would benefit from more umpires - of all ages and genders - so lets keep on getting more umpires qualified and assessed and out there doing games. Having said that - it is a pleasure to see more younger hockey players turning out and umpiring league matches. Personally it is a pleasure to do games with our youngsters - nice to have someone who can run around at the end of the day and cover so much of the game to support their older colleagues.

I also am pleased that so many clubs are helping each other out with reciprocal arrangements with umpires as we all know it is difficult to have the time to both play a game and then travel to distant parts of the county for a late match. HOWEVER, we also know it is not always possible for a club to get two qualified umpires out for their home game

I also have had a couple of comments today about what I guess is verbal abuse and excessive gamesmanship when through trying to gain some advantage during the game. If the umpires hear or see such tactics then I am sure they will warn or card the offenders, but it is not always the case that these "off the ball incidents" are spotted by umpires who are watching the progress of the ball. However, I hope the offenders colleagues will advise them of the error of their ways and ensure the game is played in the correct spirit through the County and across the divisions.

I feel that Penguin 2s are no longer a viable squad. Their first half results have been expunged and all games are presently being awarded 3 nil to their opposition, but these will also be expunged on a regular basis through the remainder of the season so teams within the division know how they stand against each other. However, I am keeping their fixtures in place at present as it may help teams find a friendly fixture in their spare weeks.

All results in on time today - great and already the first of the MRS filed away. In fact one of these already useful in resolving a query.

I have just had a quick look at the divisions - believe it or not I rarely remember who is where in the divisions - too much information for my tiny brain. However,

Division 1 -

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1	Penguin 1	15	11	3	1	53	25	28	36	
2	Eastbourne 2	15	11	1	3	54	22	32	34	
3	Mid-Sussex 1	15	10	2	3	59	29	30	32	
4	Hailsham 1	14	10	1	3	47	34	13	31	

Obviously very close at the top, with Eastbourne 2 and Mid Sussex having a strong run at the start of the second half. Brighton 4s also still have the bragging rights over Brighton 3 in their mid table struggle.

Division 2

There is some clear separation within this division with the top 2 Worthing 2s and Lewes 2s pulling away from the crowd and Worthing 3, Horsham 4s and Southwick 2s gathering in the relegation zone.

Division 3

Lewes 4s have a 5 point lead at the top of the division. But the next 4 are bunched together with only 4 points and some games in hand. Also only 3 points between the bottom 3 sides, each of which has at least one game in hand over the mid table teams - so no clarity in these positions yet.

Division 4

A difficult division to judge due to the variation in games played between the teams, however Saxon 4s and Lewes 5s are well ahead at the top of the division. Was good to see the bottom sides both get good results this week. I have been unable to get to see any of the division 4 games this season, so I hope that the teams are enjoying their hockey and that most weekends they are getting competitive games.

The Sussex Hockey Association is to hold the men's competition meeting again this season. We have booked the St Francis Sports and Social club, Haywards Heath for Thursday 12th April from 1930 hours. Please ensure that your club has the date in the diary and a couple of hardy souls delegated to attend. Now is also the time to send into me items on the Open League you would like to discuss, rules you would like to modify, add or remove, any burning issues we should be considering. Certainly I hope we can review the status of getting more umpires qualified and onto the Appointments Panel and also to ensure our umpires officiating in the lower divisions are properly qualified. Let me know early so I can get an agenda together. Many thanks for that one.

Anyway time to end tonight's epistle - no TV of note to watch so just concentrating on the white wine tonight. Looking forward to the Superbowl tomorrow/Monday morning. Hoping I can stay awake for the last quarter. Justin Timberlake does not really grab me for the half time show - may not make it past that time!

Best to all and good hockey next and future weekends.

Barry Holmes

ebholmes@hotmail.co.uk