

BASU AGM 2013



Minutes

Attendees:

Jes Sandhu	Steve Getraer
Robyn Belt	Liz Warner
Chris Moon	David Hurley
Kate Moon	Debbie Moores
Mike Jennings	Liam Riddy
Bob Fromer	Ron Vanloo
Darrell Pitman	Tina Franci
Rachel Warner	Marcus Van Heerden
Pearl Bramhall	

Apologies – Lesley Morisetti, Glenn Thom, Tony Soteriou, Grant MacIntosh, James Rodgers, Marla Loughborough, Stephen Coyle, Lesley Morisetti, Luis Arrevillagas, Glenn Tom, Harvey Pryor, Pete Saunders

Approval of Minutes from 2012 AGM - approved

Questions arising from Officer Reports – reports on BASU website. No questions.

Motions to the Committee:

- 1) It was agreed that we could use a non UK umpire for European tournaments if we cannot fulfil our quota of tournaments in 2013. Paul Mastalerz is the umpire who has been considered and he will pay for his ESF fastpitch course and flights etc.
There is the possibility of another fastpitch umpiring course being held in 2013, but this will not be a qualifier but is intended to give potential fastpitch umpires an idea of what is involved. This will be organised by Stan Donnay through the BSF, rather than BASU.
- 2) **Election of Officers – see below**

Executive Officer	Current	Elected
Umpire in Chief	Jes Sandhu	Jes Sandhu
Assistant Umpire in Chief	Lesley Morisetti	Lesley Morisetti
Training Officer	Chris Moon	Chris Moon
Secretary	Robyn Belt	Robyn Belt
Treasurer	Kate Moon	Kate Moon
General Officers - Duties/remit	Current	
Membership Officer	Peter Jones	Peter Jones
Website Liaison/development	Lesley Morisetti	Lesley Morisetti
BASU rep to BSF	Chris Moon	Chris Moon
Fastpitch Officer	David Hurley	David Hurley

General Discussion Topics

- 1) Whilst the decision to pay 'stand in' BASU umpires £10 instead of £15 per game during the 2012 season didn't affect the number of players volunteering/agreeing to help out, it was decided to revert to £15 in 2013. This only applies to fully paid up BASU members who are wearing a BASU cap and shirt, and payment will be through the normal BASU channels. It was stressed that whilst umpiring, these players are representing BASU and are subject to the normal rules and constraints imposed upon umpires at tournaments.
There will still be the £10 'cash on the day' option for those who are either not BASU members or who want immediate payment.
- 2) Chris Moon has made considerable inroads into organising a membership list which also details dates of courses sat and assessments passed by each umpire. Along with more stringent guidance from our trainers as to whether a course attendee has the potential to umpire and thus be assessed, this should help to ensure no one 'slips through the net' with regard to eligibility to membership.
Regional UIC's and training officers must liaise in order to organise assessments as early in the season as possible. This is easy in regions that have acting assessors, but not always as easy where they are not available. It has been suggested a course for trainers/assessors is organised, but currently Chris doesn't have any suitable weekends free. Who should be eligible to sit this course will need to be discussed at committee level. If the correct procedures are not followed, the assessment result may be revoked.
- 3) There is still a shortage of umpires who are experienced enough, or willing to umpire grade A games. Various reasons have been given for this, but the emphasis needs to be on encouraging more umpires to gain experience, rather than single out a particular grade as being more troublesome than another. Essentially, players at a higher level will generally have a good knowledge of the rules, and expect the umpires to know how to officiate and administer the rules correctly. More advice and training in game management, more mentoring and support from experienced umpires, and an on-going system of assessment have all been suggested to help, as well as more rotation of umpires between levels throughout tournaments. BASU will also help fund more 2 man systems for newer umpires where possible (where there is an excess of umpires available)

- 4) It was agreed that more one day courses could be held to enable umpires to officiate at a local level, as this does often lead to them sitting the full two day BASU course in the future. There is a particular problem with a lack of BASU qualified umpires in the London region, as most of the leagues are not affiliated to the BSF, and it has been suggested that the BSF approach them with regard to both affiliation and umpiring.

Issues raised at League Heads Forum

- 1) Question asked about rumour on ASA distances – if we continue to use ASA regulations there may be changes that will affect us in the future, but nothing as of yet.
- 2) There are no new additions to the non-approved bat list. We will wait until the ESF/BSF decides which standards are to be used and take the lead from them. New approved bat stickers are to be ordered for 2013, and BASU will continue checking bats at tournaments as last year.
- 3) Batting helmets for under 18's and proposals by the BSF to make the wearing of them mandatory – again, we need to wait and see what the BSF decide and implement any rulings they implement.
- 4) Game management 'flyer' produced by BASU to help inexperienced umpires through their first games – Chris will put a leaflet together using the appropriate sections of the current training material. These will be handed out after training courses and also be made available to those who request them.

Fast pitch

- 1) BSF will continue to pay any fines incurred due to an inability to fulfil our umpiring assignments in Europe. It was mentioned that the fines may be reduced this year, but this is not a BASU remit and will be decided by the ESF. The motion voted on at the 2012 BASU AGM stands with regard to umpires travel expenses.
- 2) BASU will continue to support umpiring in fastpitch softball, but the correct channels must be used by the fastpitch organisers to bring them into line with slowpitch. All of the BASU income currently comes through slowpitch. David Hurley will discuss this with Stan Donnay.

AOB

- 1) As minuted previously with regards to umpiring at grade A level, BASU will help fund two man systems where possible to assist newer or less confident umpires gain experience. A system of continual assessment for all umpires could also be put in place if sufficient numbers of umpire/assessors are available.
- 2) Where there is a history of a poor uptake of umpires for tournaments, the main suggestion to manage the situation is better communication between

tournament organisers/schedulers and BASU crew chief, and early scheduling. This then leaves time for the c/c to arrange cover for all the games. Basic accommodation for umpires may also help in some instances where there is a lack of local umpires willing to officiate.

- 3) It seems unlikely a training course for trainers will take place pre-season.
- 4) There is the potential for an ISF course to be held in the UK in 2013. This would be a three day course with assessments taking place at D1. Discrepancies have arisen with regard to the entry qualification, so it is currently unclear as to who within BASU would be able to sit the course. There is no ESF course planned this year, but the potential to hold one in conjunction with the ISF is being looked into.
- 5) It was agreed that umpires should be paid compensation to cover travel expenses when tournaments are called off early in the day. This will be the fee for the game they are covering when the games are stopped, plus two more games. This will need to be added to BASU terms and conditions and agreed by tournament organisers. Robyn to action.
- 6) The question of what is and what isn't jewellery arose with regard to items such as rubber wrist bands, visible body piercings etc., and the conclusion was that no jewellery at all is to be worn by players or umpires alike. The only exception will be for items containing medical information, and even then it is advisable to remove these and make team members aware of any potential problem, as items of jewellery can easily be lost whilst playing. If a player refuses to remove an item of jewellery, they may be ejected from the game.
- 7) The question arose as to how Crew Chiefs can fulfil the requirement for umpires in tournaments. Hopefully with the reinstatement of membership forms and the improvements in the records held mean that a complete membership list will be available.