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Brussels, 17 June 2003

To: All International Umpires and Umpire Managers

Dear Friends,

As promised in our letter of February 2003, you are herewith receiving the next update on developments, activities and proceedings related to international umpiring issues. We hope you will appreciate this as part of the open communication we wish to develop and sustain.

### **Umpire Development Manager**

Since the beginning of May, Richard Wilson has been on board as Umpire Development Manager based at the FIH Office in Brussels. Some of you will have met Richard in the past as he has been active as an umpire at international level for several years, indoors and outdoors. An introduction interview with Richard will be published in one of the next issues of World Hockey On Line and we will also publish this article for your information on the FIH Umpiring website as soon as it is available.

We are very pleased with the appointment of Richard and in the short period he has worked with and for us, he already proved of great assistance in addressing all kinds of issues regarding umpiring. Of course the variety of issues is enormous and dealing with these will take some time.

Richard's working relationship with the Umpiring Committee will be maintained and co-ordinated by the Deputy Chairman on a regular basis, as well as with the Chairman where appropriate.

Over the past few years all umpiring matters at the FIH Office have been dealt with by Dennis Meredith, FIH Events Manager. The work Dennis has taken care of in this period has been enormous and unimaginable for all who are not really informed about this. We always have been very pleased with Dennis' involvement and great contribution and we therefore want to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for all the time and effort he has given to support umpiring, despite his other pressing commitments

On behalf of the Umpiring Committee and all Umpires and Umpires' Managers we say: Thanks Dennis for all you have done !! We still will come back to you from time to time for advice and support based on your wealth of experience.

We also thank Catherine Tummers for her contribution and very helpful support in all kinds of administrative matters for many years.

### **Communication**

As you were advised in the letter of February 2003, the FIH website has been used more frequently by publishing updates on several umpiring issues.

We have posted the updated umpires lists for the World Panel, World Development Panel, Promising List for Grade I outdoor and the Grade I and Promising List for Grade I indoor, as per May 2003.



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Also we have published regular reports on the upgrades since January 2003. We still also aim to post on the website a list of all current active international and Grade 1 umpires, however before we are able to do so we have asked the National Associations to provide us with the latest information on the active or non-active status of their international umpires. As soon as this information is complete we can work on the update of the complete list. Finally the regular updated appointments for FIH tournaments in 2003 can also be found on the FIH website.

At this stage a lot of these publications are still on an experimental basis and we will really try to update the site regularly. However, at times, this could take a while so please bear with us if information of which you are aware has not been included immediately.

### **Events 2003**

During the first months of 2003, several events have successfully taken place in all Continents, involving many of the umpires and umpire managers. One tournament in the spotlight, was the 1<sup>st</sup> Indoor World Cup for Men and Women in Leipzig (GER). This was a fantastic first appearance of world class indoor hockey with a very high standard of umpiring. The tournament had good television coverage with quite a few live matches, a great number of spectators from all over the world and was played in a superb atmosphere. The performances of all the umpires and umpire managers was very much appreciated as they contributed greatly to the success of this first Indoor World Cup.

The same positive feed back can be given to all involved at other events throughout the world at every level, as umpiring in general has received very positive comments.

### **Umpiring Committee Meeting**

The Umpiring Committee has planned its first meeting during the Men's Champions Trophy Tournament in Amstelveen (NED) in August. At this meeting the latest developments and plans on umpiring matters will be discussed from which topics like umpire coaching, accreditation schemes, Year of the Umpire 2005, use of electronic equipment for coaching and communication are on the agenda.

At the meeting the members will also be informed about the status of the experiments which took place at the Azlan Shah Tournament earlier this year, regarding the wiring of umpires for communication, the third video umpire and the trial of the 3 out rule.

The Executive Board has agreed in its meeting of April 2003 that the Umpiring Committee may proceed at both the Champions Trophy Tournaments with the experiment of wiring umpires. This project will take place with the kind cooperation of the KNHB, whose provision of the equipment is highly appreciated.

The members of the Umpiring Committee will have the possibility to meet the umpires at the tournament and personally receive feed back on this important new development.

In November 2003 the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held in Brussels.



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### **Appointments**

Although it was mentioned in the previous letter, we would like to repeat the procedure regarding appointments as this is a matter of importance for all and should be clear to everyone.

The preparation of draft proposals for appointments for FIH events, neutral umpires and if necessary other events will be the responsibility of the Deputy Chairman in close cooperation with the FIH Events Manager. The draft will be sent to the FIH Appointments Committee (Peter Cohen, Hon. Secretary General, Steve Jaspan, Chair ECC, Annabel Dillon, Chair UC and Dennis Meredith, FIH Events Manager) for their comments and approval. All appointments for 2003 events have been proposed, approved and published on the FIH website (updated if any amendments have taken place). All published appointments are subject to the confirmation of the appointed officials and continued approval of Executive Board.

Being an international umpire or named on the umpire manager list does not mean that you will be included in any of the appointments automatically, as we must also try to implement the decision of the Executive Board to get new and younger people involved at events, to assist in their development and coach them in a way that will benefit hockey now as well as in the future.

### **Definition of International Caps**

The Executive Board has decided that the definition of international caps will be on a similar basis as for players. This means that the following will be in place as per 1 January 2003:

It was decided that:

- (a) Outdoor and Indoor Internationals should be maintained and counted separately.
- (b) An international match be defined as:
  - an official match between National Senior A teams played in an approved FIH or CF tournament.
  - an official match between two Senior A teams that is registered with the FIH (i.e. Test Match series)
- (c) For a Test match to be counted as International it must be played in accordance with the FIH Tournament Regulations (i.e. maximum 16 players, normal time, formal Match Sheet, match controlled by Technical Official, etc.)
- (d) For a Test match to be counted as an International it must be registered with the FIH (i.e. Match Report Form to be lodged with FIH)

The same criteria to be used for Junior Matches (U21), but any such matches should not be included in the Senior records of an umpire.

This means that registered test-matches in which one umpire of each participating country is officiating will, as per 1 January 2003 only, count as an international cap.



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### **Daily allowances for umpires**

A proposal regarding the daily allowances has been drawn up, according to the new Bid Documents and Chart of Responsibility of Tournaments, which have been amended following the FIH meetings in 2002.

The amount of this daily allowance to cover meals (excluding breakfast) and other ancillary costs, is to be negotiated between the FIH and Organising Committees of the host national Association on an event by event basis (due to different costs of living in different parts of the world), at least 28 days before the start of each event.

The negotiation process will be executed by the FIH Events Manager in cooperation with Deputy Chairman and Chairman.

The terms and conditions of this new contract come into force with effect from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Women's Champions Challenge in Catania (ITA) from 5/13 July 2003.

There are only two Tournaments to be played under the old terms and conditions – the Olympic Qualifiers, both in March 2004. A proposal to deal with these two tournaments will be subject to final approval by the UC and the Executive Board.

### **Accommodation in single rooms for umpires**

Accommodation in single rooms has only been approved for major FIH events for which the bidding contracts had not been signed.

This means that most of the tournaments in 2003 will be on a shared room basis.

Also the two Olympic Qualifying Tournaments in March 2004, will be subject to the old terms and conditions and will be on a shared room basis.

To complete the information: the Olympic Games Tournament is subject to different Rules and Regulations. The Organising Committee (ATHOC) is responsible for offering the accommodation, which will be on a shared room basis.

### **Tournament preparation**

In earlier correspondence special attention was drawn to the physical preparation of umpires at events and all Umpire Managers were asked to execute the shuttle run test at all events. Feed back from the tournaments recently played shows that a new policy needs to be discussed and agreed at the UC meeting. For the time being we only require a fitness test to be held at FIH organised tournaments with a participation of more than 5 Nations and at Continental Nations Championships with a participation of more than 5 Nations.

As the time prior to the start of a tournament after the arrival of the umpires is limited due to the regulations applicable to accommodation at Continental Club events, we feel that it is not appropriate to execute a fitness test a few hours prior to the first match.



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For Youth Nations Tournaments (U19-U18-U16) with more than 5 Nations participating, we recommend to organise a fitness test only if the time for its proper execution is available, with the decision to be made by the Umpire Manager in agreement with the Tournament Director. At these events the result of the test is not of major importance as most umpires will be new to international level, however it will help those umpires to be aware that physical fitness is a requirement for progressing in an umpiring career.

In any event: umpires are personally responsible to arrive physically fit at all tournaments and should seek assistance from their National Association for training and testing if needed.

The use of the medical information sheet will be discussed at the UC meeting. All National Associations have been asked to provide a medical information sheet for umpires currently on the World Panel and World Development Panel before 1 January 2004, which will serve as a certificate for all events in 2004.

### ***Umpire Managers Seminar***

Since we have made some progress in developing video feedback and new ideas regarding umpire coaching, an umpire managers seminar has been planned for the weekend of 31 October until 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2003. The first notification has been sent to all the UM's to investigate if the majority on the UM list will be able to attend. The seminar will be used for practical sessions as well to achieve a consistent standard.

### ***Umpire Managers***

Two traineeships for recently retired top level umpires have been successfully carried out and a third one will follow in July 2003. The official nomination of the candidates is subject to consideration at the meeting of the Umpiring Committee in August.

Already performed as trainee: Ermanno Silvano (ITA, Prague – April) and Antonio Morales (ESP, Rome – June); still to follow: Clive McMurray (RSA, Randburg – July).

### ***Upgrades to World Panel***

At the meeting of the Executive Board in April the proposal of the Umpiring Committee to upgrade the following umpires to the World Panel list has been approved and confirmed: Chieko Akiyama (JAP), Julie Ashton-Lucy (AUS), Sarah Garnett (NZL), Soledad Iparraguirre (ARG).

Congratulations to all for this wonderful achievement.



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### Retirements

As at 1st June 2003 we have been notified of the following recent retirements from international umpiring, due to either personal reasons, reaching the stipulated retirement age or being non-active as an umpire at national level:

Women:

Mi Ok Lee (KOR), Cherill Franco (T&T), Irina Sivtsova (RUS), Lynn Nicholson (ENG), Fiona Alcorn (ENG), Lesley Millar (ENG).

Men:

Eric Abudarham (GIB), Roberto Cercego (ITA), Angelus Faas (AUT), Dalvinder Singh (SIN), Thilkan Velappakutty (SIN), Sukhmindar Singh (SIN), Sardol Singh (SIN), Charanjit Singh (SIN)

They have all been thanked with a personal letter on behalf of the Umpiring Committee for their services.

### Conclusion

We hope that with this letter we have updated you adequately regarding the current status of international umpiring activities. However, if you have any queries, please feel free to contact Annabel Dillon (Chair), Peter von Reth (Deputy Chairman), or Richard Wilson (Umpire Development Manager) preferably by e-mail.

Contact details:

Annabel Dillon	e mail: <a href="mailto:a_bel48@pacific.net.sg">a_bel48@pacific.net.sg</a>
Peter von Reth	e mail: <a href="mailto:vonreth@iae.nl">vonreth@iae.nl</a>
Peter von Reth	fax: + 31 40 257 19 48
Richard Wilson	e mail: <a href="mailto:umpiresdev@FIHockey.org">umpiresdev@FIHockey.org</a>
Richard Wilson	fax: + 32 2 219 27 61

Finally we wish you continuing success and enjoyment in your umpiring this year as many important events are scheduled and we look forward to meeting you at one or more events in the not too distant future.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annabel', written in a cursive style.

Annabel Dillon  
Chairman  
FIH Umpiring Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter von Reth', written in a cursive style.

Peter von Reth  
Deputy Chairman  
FIH Umpiring Committee

copy to: members Umpiring Committee, FIH Events Manager