

## **BASU AGM 2016 MINUTES**



### **Lemon Tree Pub, Slough: 6 February 2016**

#### **Attendees:**

Jes Sandhu	Chris Moon
Steve Getraer	Hans Daanen
Kate Moon	Pete Saunders
Chris Lunn	Lesley Morisetti
Andy Chase	Bob Fromer
Bridget Cameron	Jana McCaskill
Robyn Belt	Ronnie van Loo
Darrell Pitman	Mike Jennings
Jon Middlemist	David Hurley

**Apologies:** Alex Levine, Ben March, Stephen Coyle, Colin Campbell, Colin Paine, Belinda Aker.

#### **Opening remarks from the Chair:**

Thanks to everyone for attending, especially those from Edinburgh and Bristol, but shame about the lack of local attendees.

#### **Matters Arising from Minutes from the 2015 AGM:**

- Treasurer Steve Getraer automatically checks that we don't lose money on a specific tournament.
- BASU membership fees are deducted from the first tournament an umpire works.
- Payment within a week of getting Crew Chief paperwork is the norm.
- No fastpitch umpire course ran in 2015.
- ESF umpire selection criteria seems to be working OK.
- There was help with transport costs for Jana McCaskill and Bridget Cameron in 2015 from the Great Britain Fastpitch League. This year, Jana and Bridget have arranged to come down for all but one GBFL Saturday and they will run a Fastpitch umpire clinic on Sunday 8 May after a GBFL Saturday. BASU will contribute to the cost for the course.

### **Questions arising from Officer reports:**

- It was noted Hans Daanen also officiated at the ESF Slowpitch Championships in Bulgaria.

### **Training Officer report:**

- More support is needed for newly-qualified umpires. Crew Chiefs can take responsibility for mentoring and arrange this support. Nominating a "buddy" might help; this probably should be a local person appointed by the local UiC. The Membership Officer will list mentors for new umpires on the membership spreadsheet once they have been appointed and Jes Sandhu will contact League Heads to recommend naming mentors.
- BASU course qualification will now only last two years for newly-qualified umpires; after this it will last for four years.
- Courses booked so far for 2016:
  - EMSL
  - Bristol
  - Solent -- still waiting for details
  - Windsor
  - Manchester -- still waiting for details
  - Cardiff
  - GLMSL
  - Edinburgh / Glasgow to arrange a course. Bridget Cameron and Lesley Morisetti can run courses in Scotland if there is demand.
- The GLMSL has 48 teams but no qualified umpires, and BASU needs to get the GLMSL to take umpiring more seriously. BASU will fund and run a two-day course, probably at British Airways, and open it up to London corporate leagues. It's better to have fewer qualified umpires rather than a larger number of untrained umpires.

### **Kit Officer report:**

- BASU loses £10 on jackets; should we continue to subsidise them? After discussion, it was decided to keep costs as they are.
- New members get a powder blue shirt at £10 and a free ball bag and cap.

### **Election of Officers**

Officers elected in 2015 and for 2016 are shown below:

<b>Executive Officer</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Umpire in Chief	Jes Sandhu	Jes Sandhu
Assistant Umpire in Chief	Lesley Morisetti	Lesley Morisetti
Training Officer	Chris Moon	Chris Moon
Secretary	Pete Saunders	Pete Saunders
Treasurer	Steve Getraer	Steve Getraer
<b>General Officers</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Membership Officer	Lesley Morisetti	Kate Moon
Website Liaison/development	Lesley Morisetti	Jana McCaskill
BASU rep to BSF	Chris Moon	Chris Moon
Fastpitch Officer	David Hurley	Bridget Cameron
Kit Officer	Kate Moon	Andy Chase

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

**Advanced course for more experienced umpires in 2016:** Is there sufficient interest? Probably not, but BASU will run an Advanced Course in 2017. The Advanced Course is a good pathway to ESF qualification.

**Fastpitch training clinic in 2016:** Bridget Cameron is creating a fastpitch manual, much of which will highlight the differences between fastpitch and slowpitch. A fastpitch umpire theory clinic will be run on Sunday 8 May, with a practical session at the following GBFL playing day. The clinic should be advertised to GBFL teams and Under-19 players and coaches in particular should attend as the course will help their tactical awareness. There could be another course at the end of the summer when young players are not under exam pressure.

#### **Selection criteria for umpires to attend European Tournaments:**

Prospective umpires need to umpire three of the four NSL / Nationals tournaments to qualify for ESF slowpitch tournaments for the following year. The order of preference for Europe is:

##### **Slowpitch**

Chris Moon  
Pete Saunders  
Lesley Morisetti  
Darrell Pitman

##### **Fastpitch**

Bridget Cameron  
Jana McCaskill  
Jes Sandhu  
David Hurley

**Financial implication of withdrawing from an ESF assignment:** We could have been charged €375 last year, but the charge wasn't levied. At the ESF Congress on 12-13 February, Mike Jennings succeeded in getting the ESF to agree to no longer enforce a regulation specifying that when a team enters an ESF tournament but withdraws before the payment deadline, no entry fee is assessed but a payment of 375 euros is still required for the implied umpire commitment.

**BSF / BASU help with travel costs to ISF tournaments:** This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. When an umpire is nominated for an ISF event and accepts the nomination, he or she should submit a case to the BASU Committee. The payback for BASU is what the umpire brings back to the UK in terms of training and experience and the application for help with travel costs should cite what the umpire will contribute afterwards.

**Incident reporting procedure:** An accident / incident report exists on the BSF website: <http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/insurance/incidents>. This could be adapted to include reports on ejections or similar. ESF procedures will be reviewed at this year's Congress, and whatever we adopt needs to be passed on to Crew Chiefs and tournament organisers. Ejection for one game might not need to be reported but if any further action is taken, such as missing additional games or other types of bans, then this does need to be recorded. A collision of a runner and catcher could result in an insurance claim. Either way, the Crew Chief and tournament organisers need to be aware of what information needs to be collected. Our insurance only covers umpires resident in the UK, so if any umpires travel to the UK to umpire a tournament here, the Crew Chief needs to check that their own insurance covers them.

**Umpiring at non-ESF European tournaments:** Interested umpires should check the ESF website for non-official tournaments that might require umpires (<http://www.europeansoftball.org/competitions/?official=0>). You may be able to negotiate travel costs with the tournament organisers. As a BASU member you are covered for personal injury as long as you inform BASU that you are going.

**BASU website:** Liz Graham owns basu.org.uk, but as most people use the BSF site as their first point of call we should continue to use this for our BASU information. BASU should have access to its web page so we can add information. Jana McCaskill has agreed to run the BASU pages on the website and a Facebook page. Crew Chiefs could add a photo of the crew after tournaments or anything else that's interesting.

**Cost of kit:** Keep it as it is.

**Umpires under 18 years of age:** A responsible adult (parent / guardian) needs to be present to ensure nothing untoward happens – this needs to be added to the BASU Constitution. The parent needs to be aware of the implications of what their child is doing and the child should always work with a partner. The BSF already has a general policy regarding participation in softball by under-18s.

**Request for training material:** Stephen Coyle from Scotland has asked for access to BASU training material. There are precedents for this, but Jana, Bridget or Lesley should be in attendance at their first course.

**Non-sanctioned tournaments:** If you are asked to umpire at a tournament that has not been sanctioned by the BSF, it's up to you to check what the payment and conditions will be.

**Two-man system at NSL games:** This will probably not be possible due to manpower issues, but semi-finals and finals should be umpired by two-man crews.

**Umpire fees:** Tournament fees are going up; should BASU increase umpire fees? Fees will probably be increased in 2017 so tournament organisers have sufficient notice, and we should get feedback. The likely increase would be from £15 up to £17 (£18 including the BASU admin fee). BASU has not put up fees since 2010.

**BASU 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** It will be our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017, and we should celebrate this in some way

**Crew Chiefs List:** This is to go on the BSF website and Facebook asap.