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To: All International Umpires and Umpire Managers

Lausanne, Wednesday 4 March 2009

Dear Friends,

As some of you probably already know, at the last meeting of the FIH Executive Board, I was appointed as the Chairman of the FIH Umpiring Committee.

First of all I wish to thank Mr. Leandro Negre, President of FIH, and all the other members of the Executive Board for the confidence they have placed in me with this appointment to such a responsible position.

I have served on the FIH Umpiring Committee for the last six years and during this period, along with the other members, I have developed a clear idea of the tasks and responsibilities of the Committee. It is now the time for me to put these into practice and to work to give the Umpiring Committee a real strategic role in the management and development of the 'umpiring world'.

We will be arranging the first meeting of the new Committee very shortly. This will be the first opportunity to review, in agreement with all the other members of the Committee, our Operational Plan for the next two years in a spirit of shared information and joint decision-making. Our starting point will be the legacy we have received from the outgoing Committee and its Chairman, Peter von Reth. I wish to personally thank him for the huge amount of work that he has done over the last few years for umpiring; we will retain and build on what he has done, as well as trying to develop new ideas and projects.

It is too early to enter into the specific details of what we want to achieve. I would however like you to start to think of this Committee as a group of people sharing information, ideas, decisions and sometimes criticism, who are committed to working to develop umpiring at all levels on a worldwide basis. This will only be achieved though with the help and support of all National Associations and each of the Continental Federations.

The members of the new Umpiring Committee are as follows: -

Resham Bains (KEN), Rashad Butt (PAK), Renée Cohen (NED), Santiago Deo (ESP), Ian Faulkner (NZL), Martyn Gallivan (GAL), Masako Kamisuki (JPN), Clive McMurray (RSA), Shakeel Qureshi (IND), Alain Renaud (FRA), Jan-Jochen Rommel (GER), Horacio Servetto (ARG) and Roger St. Rose (TRI)

Together we expect to achieve important goals. The new Committee is a mix of 'senior' members, who I am sure will continue to work with the same enthusiasm, and 'new' members. I welcome them, knowing that they will contribute with innovative ideas and constructive suggestions.

Our team can also count on the valuable and continued support of Richard Wilson, FIH Umpires Development Manager and Secretary to our Committee.

Special thanks go to the members of the old Umpiring Committee, whose term of office either expired or was ended in 2008 or who were not re-elected: -

Joke Bougon (FRA), Harcharn (Billy) Dillon (HKG), Richard Kendrick (IRL), Antonis Mavrides (GRE) and Kukoo Walia (IND)

Their contributions to the activities of the Committee have been much appreciated.

I would also like to thank all the other candidates who were nominated, but not elected to the new Committee. Their nominations show a real commitment to work for hockey to the benefit of our sport.

Nowadays the latest technologies give the possibility to shorten distances, such that it is possible to exchange ideas and thoughts in a fast and efficient manner. It is my intention to use all these means of communication so that you all feel that you are a part of the project. With the help and contribution of everybody involved in our small umpiring world we will be successful!

I have had the chance to meet most of you at Tournaments, meetings or Seminars. Some of you are still missing from my 'list of friends'. I hope to fill in the gaps in the coming months, and look forward to meeting you very shortly at one of the many upcoming events.

The following will update you with essential umpiring information and advice on what has been happening during the year to date.

Appointments for 2009

The FIH Appointments for 2009 are normally posted to the FIH website on a monthly basis, with the most recent version being posted on 20 January 2009. We expect that an updated version will be posted in the next few days, containing the appointments through to the end of August 2009.

The delay in the notification of FIH Appointments this year has largely been brought about by the formation of a new Appointments Committee (the composition of which was only confirmed at the recent Executive Board meeting in Lausanne).

The Committee membership is as follows:

Sue Neill (CAN) – Chair, Steve Jaspan (RSA), Fumio Ogura (JPN) and Horacio Servetto (ARG), with Dennis Meredith and Richard Wilson as joint Secretaries.

We fully appreciate the problems that late notifications cause to Umpires and Umpire Managers who wish to plan their year for reasons of work, family, holidays and hockey. The new Appointments Committee is working hard to address the situation.

Rules of Hockey 2009 Outdoor and Indoor

As already advised in the e-mail of 5 February 2009, the new Rules of Hockey 2009 will apply to all international hockey with effect from 1 May 2009.

It is anticipated that the pdf version of the Rules of Hockey 2009 will be posted to the FIH website very shortly. At the same time, the updated Umpires Briefing will be posted to the Umpires section of the website.

The Hockey Rules Board is currently working on the Rules of Indoor Hockey 2009 and a pdf version will be posted to the FIH website in due course, coordinated with the posting the updated Indoor Umpires Briefing.

In the past, the FIH Office sent out hard copies of the new Rules of Hockey for Outdoor and Indoor Hockey to all International Umpires and Umpires Managers at the same time as posting the pdf version on the website. However, this time we will post the pdf version as soon as it is available and the Rules Books will be mailed in the weeks following. It will take some time for the hard copies to be printed, despatched and work their way through the international mail systems, so please be patient if you do not receive a Rules Book until a few weeks after the Rules appear on the website.

Please ensure that we have your correct postal address - see the section below regarding Contact Details!

Monthly Upgradings, FIH Umpire & Umpires Manager Lists and Retirements

The monthly Umpire Upgradings, FIH Umpire and Umpires Manager lists are posted to the Umpires section of the FIH website at the start of each month and can be accessed from this link: -

<http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vnavsite/page/directory/0,10853,1181-117486-118753-nav-list,00.html>

As at 4 March 2009 we have been notified of the following retirements from International Umpiring since our last Newsletter, due either to personal reasons or reaching the stipulated retirement age.

Men Outdoor:

Pascal Feix (FRA), Rui Figueiredo (POR), James Pilgrim (ENG), Ravinderpal Singh (MAS) and Rob ten Cate (NED)

Men Indoor

Rui Figueiredo (POR), Tom Goode (IRL) and Rob ten Cate (NED)

All have been thanked with a formal letter from the Umpiring Committee.

FIH Umpires

The FIH Open Places agreement with EHF continues, with the following appointments being made: -

- Hong Chen (CHN) is appointed as a Neutral Umpire to the EuroHockey Club Champions Trophy in Wettingen (SUI), 29 May – 1 June 2009
- Diego Barbas (ARG) is appointed as a Neutral Umpire to the EuroHockey Club Challenge II in Lousada (POR), 28-31 May 2009.

We are always looking to try and increase the number of development opportunities for Umpires. In line with this policy the Umpiring Committee has appointed Umpire Managers to the Men's U-21 Invitational 4 Nations Tournament in Johor (MAS) and the Men's U-21 Invitational 5 Nations Tournament in Cairo (EGY). Both Tournaments take place later this month. We are grateful to the participating National Associations at each event for their agreement to nominate young and promising National and International Umpires, who will undoubtedly benefit from the coaching that they will receive.

FIH Umpire Managers

Since the last Newsletter, Philip Schellekens (NED) and Rui Figueiredo (POR) successfully completed their traineeships and have been added to the list.

Traineeships are scheduled for Edmundo Saladino (ARG) at the Pan American Cup in Santiago (CHI) this month, Faiz Faizi (PAK) at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Tournament in Ipoh (MAS) in April 2009 and Antonio Bustos (ESP) at the EuroHockey Club Challenge II, in Lousada in May 2009.

Traineeships for a number of the other FIH Umpire Managers list candidates will be scheduled at the earliest opportunity.

Contact Details Reminder

In order to be able to communicate quickly and effectively with all our International Umpires and Umpire Managers, it is essential that we have your up to date contact details.

If any of your contact details (in particular your e-mail address) alter through changing jobs, moving house etc, please let Richard Wilson know immediately at richard.wilson@worldhockey.org

Replies to e-mails

Please reply promptly to e-mails both from FIH and Tournament Organising Committees, whether they concern appointments, travel plans or other arrangements.

In case of problems in contacting, or getting replies from, Organising Committees, when you have been appointed as a Neutral Umpire or Umpires Manager to FIH World and FIH Invitational events, please advise Richard Wilson. He will do his best to assist you to obtain the information that you require.

Finally ...

That is all for the time being, but I will keep you posted regularly with all the latest news about our activities and projects. My e-mail address, should you wish to contact me with any questions or to raise any concerns, is silvano@fastloc.it

I wish you all the best and send you my regards.

Ciao e arrivederci!!!



Ermanno Silvano
Chairman
FIH Umpiring Committee

cc Members of Umpiring Committee
Secretaries Continental Federations
FIH Competitions Manager
FIH Technical Manager