

The 2019 season has been a challenge for appointments with the loss of a number of umpires due to moving away, retirement and promotion. The league restructure has also had a significant impact on the ability to cover games.

Since December we have been able to call upon a number of ladies Level 2 umpires prepared to cover a second men's game. After some teething problems we have agreed a suitable mechanism for this with MRHUA. My thanks go to the number of umpires who were prepared to cover extra games.

For the hardcore of regular umpires, I have even greater thanks as they are vital to the association.

To the number of umpires who have been promoted to higher EMHUA grades, Level 2 and Level 3 congratulations – I know it is often a struggle. For any umpires looking to progress please ensure that the chief coach is aware – coaching and assessing resources are stretched so are naturally targeted at those who have alerted us to a need or requirement to progress (or just those asking for some help). To the umpire coaches and assessors, again I thank you.

To anyone considering umpiring but concerned over doing club games (or still playing) I implore you to speak to myself or the chief coach – we have limited resources and are prepared to work around availability. If just 10 club umpires gave me 1 game a month, I'd cover significantly more fixtures. As an association we must break the myths of "Play or Umpire", "Clubbie Umpires" and "One game a day only" umpires – if not we can't survive.

Good luck to the 3 members who have NYUPL assessments in May – you were nominated because you deserve it, so go and show the national group how good we know you are.

Colin Anderson

EMHUA Appointments Secretary (Co-Opted)

April 2019