



**Minutes of the 107th Meeting of Ulster Hockey's Management Board, held in the Hockey Office on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7pm.**

**Present:** Billy Pollock (BP), Rory Capper (RC), Gareth Herron (GH), Iain Kelly (IK), Mervyn Logan (ML) & Ann Rosa (AR)

**In attendance:** Adare Brady (AB), President UH, Terry Templeton (TT), Vice-President UH, Jill Poots (JP) Executive Manager UH

**Apologies:** Peter Kelly (PK), Lynn Mills (LM), Jonny Rose (JR)

Item	Comments	Decision/Action
<b>Chairperson's Welcome</b>	BP welcomed all. The first part of the meeting was dedicated to a continuing discussion on the Culture & Values of Ulster Hockey, led by Des Jennings, Sports Psychologist & Head of Mental Health at the Sports Institute. Andrew Johnston attended.	
<b>Culture &amp; Values Of Ulster Hockey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The theme was "Where is our sport currently and where do we want it to be"?</li> <li>• What is it that makes people go out and play hockey every week?</li> <li>• How can we be innovative to meet the needs of the changing environment?</li> <li>• Is the season too long?</li> <li>• Has the standard of hockey dropped because of the super clubs that have developed as a result of IHL?</li> <li>• Further discussion is needed as are consultations with Clubs to see how UH can move forward.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	None declared.	
<b>Chairperson's Remarks</b>	<p>Since the last meeting Chris McCandless has resigned from the Board and as the Chair of the Coaching Committee. Our thanks go to Chris for his enthusiasm and hard work over the last 2 years on the Coaching Committee. His contribution has been greatly valued.</p> <p>JP left the meeting as a discussion on the impact of her resignation was to be discussed. Jill resigned due to her changed family circumstances. A lengthy discussion followed on the recruitment process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The deadline for Incorporation is to be deferred.</li> <li>• The Board agreed that Interim cover was required.</li> <li>• A sub-group of the Board of BP, PK, ML &amp; JR will take charge of this interim cover.</li> </ul>	

	JP returned to the meeting.	
<b>President's Report</b>	Read. BP thanked the President for her report. It was a busy month for her as she attended Indoor Finals and several outdoor matches.	
<b>Minutes of February Meeting</b>	The Minutes were proposed as a true reflection of the meeting by JK, seconded by GH, passed unanimously and signed by BP.	
<b>Matters Arising</b>	Nothing to record at this stage of the meeting.	
<b>Standing Committee Reports</b>	<p><b>Finance:</b> Eric Cunningham is recovering well and was unable to attend the last Finance Meeting. The Board members send their very best wishes to Eric for his recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ML reported that the accounts were in line with the projections.</li> <li>• The auditor will be doing the accounts again.</li> <li>• HI fees are still to be paid.</li> <li>• Funding has gone down by 25% and umpires costs have gone up. Affiliation Fees will need to be raised.</li> <li>• ML gave the Board information on 2 options on the increase of fees and these will be discussed in full at the next Board Meeting. Fees will be higher for the teams with panel umpires. There will not be an increase for Schools.</li> </ul> <p><b>Schools:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Joint Schools are not due to meet until next Monday.</li> <li>• Chris Harte has resigned from his role as Chair of the Boys' Schools' Committee and Paul Osborne has resigned from the Boys' Committee.</li> <li>• Colin Walker will be asked about progress in the John Minnis Estate Agents Burney Cup.</li> <li>• A pre-match meal before the final of the John Minnis Estates Burney Cup will be available.</li> </ul> <p><b>Competitions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Anderson Cup semi-finals will be played on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm &amp; 3pm at Stormont.</li> <li>• Junior Finals day has been pencilled in for 6<sup>th</sup> April but could change due to outstanding fixtures.</li> <li>• Fines were issued to Clubs that did not return trophies in time for the Junior League Finals Day.</li> <li>• The Indoor Competition went very well at the Antrim Forum.</li> <li>• New rules will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>Umpires:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linda Johnston’s appointment as Hon Secretary of the Umpires’ Committee was approved.</li> <li>• Two clubs were non-compliant in January. Both are to be fined £25.00.</li> <li>• 16 people attended the Rules course in January. Rules courses have been organised for 26<sup>th</sup> &amp; 28<sup>th</sup> February.</li> <li>• If umpires’ radios are required, the order needs to be placed very soon.</li> <li>• Concern was expressed about the organisation of the indoor tournaments that resulted in a clash with the Youth and Senior Ladies taking place at the same time in two different venues. Very little notice was received about the tournaments and this meant that there were no umpires available for the Friday night matches.</li> <li>• Rob Abbott is keen to develop Indoor Hockey. Raymond Hughes will take this on and try to leave 2 or 3 free dates to attract the bigger clubs. Rob is keen to see that it should not be dominated by Leinster teams and that there will be an Irish Indoor team in 2020. Is Rob liaising with Hockey Ireland for free dates from EHL? There will be workshops for umpires for Indoor Hockey in order to get more male indoor umpires involved.</li> <li>• A sub-committee of the Competitions Committee to promote Indoor hockey should be a priority for next season.</li> </ul> <p><b>Coaching:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris McCandless’s resignation means that a volunteer is needed to report to the board from the Coaching Committee.</li> </ul> <p><b>Disciplinary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaint (Confidential) – following consultation with Solicitor, Chair sent letter response to Complainant 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 addressing points of concern.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Executive Manager’s Report</b></p>	<p>The Executive Manager gave a comprehensive report on the work of the Hockey Office Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hockey Ireland Membership System:</b> Dwyne Hill joined Ulster at the four information sessions on incorporation. He provided the clubs with advice on the new membership</li> </ul>	

system along with instructions on how to enter player data. HI has indicated that a Working Group with provincial representation will be convened to consider further usage of the system.

- **UH Awards Dinner** is to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May. JP proposed that a small working group be set up to support Andrew Johnston in organising the event.
- **Incorporation.** Work on the TORs for the UH Ltd Committees needs to be prioritised in the next few weeks. The Draft Articles and proposed structure have been put on the UH website and Clubs have 4 weeks to comment on these.
- **Fees:** 2 Boys' schools have still not paid their affiliation fees.
- **Sponsorship:** Staff met with Geoff Wilson to develop UH's sponsorship asset register.
- **Insurance:** A response has been received from Marsh in relation to the proposed Umpires' and Players' insurance. A meeting with Light McCausland and Rankin is needed in relation to the current club cover that has been sold with the use of the Ulster Hockey name.
- **Anderson Cup:** The trophy has been sent to England for an assessment on the repairs needed.
- **Policies & Procedures:** JP & BP attended a briefing organised by Sport NI. Good practice was discussed regarding policy review periodicity. Board agreed to adopt the Sport Ni recommended practice whereby existing policies need to be reviewed every 3 years and new policies reviewed after 1 year.
- **Youth Development:** Linwoods Youth Leagues have resumed with 3 Boys' Blitzes held on 10<sup>th</sup> February and 5 Girls' Blitzes scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> February. Finals days will be 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April, with the Girls at Stormont and the Boys at Ballymena Academy. U15 Finals will be in May. The Indoor Leagues were a great success with participation numbers doubling from last year. The BDO McCloy & Pearson Cups have over 200 schools registered this year to take part.
- **Coaching courses:** Level 1 in Portadown on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 24<sup>th</sup> Feb & 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Fundamentals Coaching Course at the Ulster University on 21<sup>st</sup> February.
- **U15 Talent Development Programme & U18 Development Panel Sessions** have resumed after the Christmas break. The **U21** sessions are also ongoing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fundraising Session on 7<sup>th</sup> March:</b> This will focus on fundraising by Cricket Ireland.</li> <li>• <b>Mary Peters Trust Dinner 31<sup>st</sup> May.</b> If interested in attending, please inform the Hockey Office.</li> </ul> <p>JP closed her report by saying that she was very sorry to be leaving and is leaving due to personal reasons. She thanked everyone for their help and support and will help out in the future. BP formally accepted her resignation with regret and thanked her for all her hard work and commitment over the last 18 months.</p>	
<b>Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awards Dinner to be organised</li> </ul>	
<b>IHA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing further to report</li> </ul>	
<b>Four Provinces Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update</li> </ul>	
<b>Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
<b>Any Other Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ulster Masters:</b> Coordinators needed (1male &amp; 1 female) for all groups, to feed into the Masters.</li> <li>• <b>NICVA Courses:</b> 5<sup>th</sup> March "Running a Charitable Company" 12<sup>th</sup> March: "Good Governance for new and nearly new trustees"</li> <li>• <b>Commonwealth Games.</b> This is only going to happen if there is funding. Interest is still there.</li> </ul>	
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	Next meeting is Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7pm.	
<b>Meeting Closed</b>	The meeting closed at 11.10pm	

APPROVED

*W. H. H. H.*

*W. H. H. H. CHAIRPERSON*

DATE :

*19<sup>th</sup> March 2019*

