



**Minutes of the 109<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ulster Hockey Management Board,  
held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.00pm in the Ulster Hockey Office.**

**Present:** Billy Pollock (BP), Peter Kelly (PK), Gareth Herron (GH), Mervyn Logan (ML), Johnny Rose (JR) Iain Kelly (IK), Rory Capper (RC)

**In Attendance:** Adare Brady (AB) President Ulster Hockey, Terry Templeton (TT) Vice President Ulster Hockey, Jill Poots (JP) Executive Manager.

**Apologies:** Lynn Mills, Ann Rosa

Item	Comments	Decision/ Action
Chairperson's Remarks	BP welcomed all to the meeting.	
Conflict of Interest	None declared.	
President's Report	<p>The President highlighted the winning teams in a variety of senior women's, men's and schools' competitions. Of note were Dromore Ladies and Ballynahinch Men winning their respective Irish Hockey Challenge Cups.</p> <p>The President noted the challenge – not only for herself and the Vice President, but also Ulster Hockey's staff and umpires – of attending and doing duty at the numerous end-of-season cup finals. She encouraged better scheduling in future, particularly to avoid fixture clashes.</p>	
Minutes of the last Board Meeting	The draft Minutes of the Board meeting on 19 <sup>th</sup> March were proposed as a true reflection of the meeting by IK, seconded by GH, passed unanimously and signed by BP.	
Matters Arising	<p>On recruitment of a new Executive Manager, BP noted that the post had been advertised at the start of April and would close at the end of the month.</p> <p>BP updated the Board on the ongoing correspondence reference a complaint.</p>	The Board agreed that the Executive Manager's Report should be further up the agenda.



<p>Standing Committee Reports</p>	<p><b>Finance</b>  ML outlined the projected shortfall in next year's budget, due mainly to reduced grant funding and increasing costs. While the shortfall can be reduced by gate receipts, other revenue sources will need to be explored. This includes the Club's affiliation fees, which have been static for three years and remain low compared to other parts of Ireland and Great Britain.  The move to charitable status is also expected to bring additional income through Gift Aid.  Chair proposed the Hon Treasurer Mervyn Logan be authorised UHU holder of the Bank Debit Card (during the absence of an Executive Manager). Vice- Chairperson seconded and meeting agreed.</p> <p><b>Schools</b>  The Girls' AGM has been held but the Boys' AGM hasn't been held. BP suggested that Ulster Hockey could facilitate the Boys' meeting if that was helpful.</p> <p><b>Competitions</b>  IK noted a venue was being sought for Plate Finals day and two Men's finals to be played on the same day.</p> <p><b>Umpires</b>  The Committee will present compliance proposals to the Board once the final statistics for the season have been compiled.   The Committee will also present a proposal to rationalise the scheduling of cup finals at the end of season when umpiring resources are most stretched.   BP encouraged the umpires to consider the promotion of the Code of Conduct to help develop a greater culture of respect, so that players and spectators know that abuse towards umpires and foul language will not be tolerated.</p>	<p>The financial forecast and potential remedies will be presented to clubs at the Ulster Hockey AGM.</p> <p>Debit Card application to be made to Danske Bank</p> <p>The Board agreed to the Competition Committee's proposal to rule that all senior &amp; intermediate matches must be played on synthetic pitches.</p> <p>The Board granted the Umpires dispensation to hold their AGM on 14 May, a week ahead of the Ulster Hockey AGM.</p>
<p>Executive Manager Report</p>	<p>This was JP's last Board meeting and BP paid tribute to her on behalf of the Board and the wider hockey family for all her hard work and dedication, regularly going above and beyond what was expected of her role.</p> <p>JP presented her report and highlighted the following items:</p> <p><b>Harry McNeil's resignation as EBA Coach</b> – thanks were</p>	



	<p>recorded to Harry for the huge contribution he made during his work to encourage participation in the Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey areas and particularly within disabled sport.</p> <p><b>Commercial Strategy</b> – the Board noted that the draft strategy would be a good starting point for JP’s successor</p> <p><b>GDPR gap audit</b> – a sub group of BP, PK &amp; GH had met with Executive Manager to agree the priority actions</p> <p><b>Operational Plan</b> – JP summarised progress on the six strategic priorities, noting that incorporation had been delayed.</p> <p><b>Employee handbook</b> – the Board noted the new handbook.</p>	
UHU Events	<p>Annual Awards Dinner is being being planned for 17 May with a streamlined format for the presentations.</p> <p>Documents have been circulated to clubs for the Ulster Hockey AGM on 21 May.</p>	
Hockey Ireland	The Irish Hockey AGM will be held on 25 May.	Ulster Hockey Board rep to attend
4 Provinces Group	No update	
Correspondence	None	
Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BP recorded thanks to AB on behalf of the Board for her hard work and dedication during her term as President. AB thanked the Board and particularly JP for her support.</li> <li>• The Board discussed the large volume of work that falls to a small number of volunteers – for example, in relation to disciplinary matters – and members expressed concern at the detrimental delays that can result.</li> <li>• AB drew the Board’s attention to recent inappropriate social media postings.</li> </ul>	The Board agreed that a reminder be sent to UH’s coaches to remind them of the Code of Conduct.
Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm at The Pavilion, Stormont – to coincide with the Umpires’ AGM.	
Meeting Closed	The meeting closed at 9.55pm	

APPROVED:

CHAIR PERSON ULSTER HOCKEY

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DATE:

14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019