



Minutes of the 120th Meeting of the Ulster Management Board, held on 21st April 2020 at 7.00pm by Zoom conference call

Present: Billy Pollock (BP), Peter Kelly (PK), Jamie Aiken (JA), Mervyn Logan (ML), Iain Kelly (IK), Ann Rosa (AR), Jonny Rose (JR), Christopher McCandless (CMcC), Gareth Herron (GH), Christine Reid (CR)

In attendance: Terry Templeton (TT) President UH, Rosie Rea (RR) Vice President, Marc Scott (MS) Executive Manager.

Apologies: None

Item	Comments
Chairperson's remarks	<p>The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting remotely and noted that this, the 120th Management Board Meeting was historic in that it is the first fully remote meeting of the Ulster Hockey Board.</p> <p>The Chair commented on the fact that the COVID-19 situation had provided an element of challenge, an interesting experience in terms of operating but also some opportunities to consider how to work differently and more effectively.</p>
Conflict of Interest	None noted
President's Report	<p>The President updated that he had spent a large amount of time contacting older members who may be isolated at this time to maintain contact and engagement for those members with Ulster Hockey.</p> <p>Otherwise there had been limited activity by in the Presidential role.</p> <p>BP advised that a number of clubs were planning g on having remote awards presentations and that the President may be required to provide video congratulations.</p> <p>MS to advise staff that the President had agreed and was available to undertake remote/virtual presentations.</p>
Minutes of last Board meeting	Agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Proposed PK, seconded ML
Matters arising	IT – clarified that the emails were moving to Office 365 as the first phase of the IT project. MS to liaise with GH regards the server provision.

<p>Standing Committee Reports</p>	<p><u>Executive Manager's report</u></p> <p>The Executive Manager provided a written report and drew attention to the following areas:</p> <p>Interviews for the Domestic Hockey Officer took place on 17th March. The interview panel consists of Marc Scott, Ann Rosa and Karen Rollo (Executive Manager Netball NI) and the outcome was relayed to the Board verbally in March.</p> <p>All member clubs were invited to join in with zoom consultation meetings across the week commencing 13th April. The meetings were hosted by the Executive Manager who provided an update to the clubs regarding the AGM & Incorporation process and Strategic Planning process. Clubs were also invited to provide details on areas of concern and any threats during the period of inactivity.</p> <p>Ulster Hockey welcomes Nicki Bayes (Finance) to the team as a permanent member of staff, switching over from her previous contracted role.</p> <p>Ulster Hockey Board and Staff are encouraged to continue to consider how we can support the NICH in this difficult period. A close shave fundraiser is currently live and to date has raised, just short of £3,000. Billy Pollock and Marc Scott have offered up their (combined 50 years worth of) beards to this cause, U18 coaches Stephen Cuddy and Paddy Grimes have offered to shave their heads and it is anticipated that some leg waxing is imminent!</p> <p>A grant application has been submitted to TEO Central Good relations fund (Thursday 12th March) to support the costs of a Good Relations Officer and programme costs to support a programme of hockey development activity with a focus on community development and good relations the outcome of which is awaited.</p> <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>ML advised that the Annual End of Year process was well underway.</p> <p>It was confirmed in relation to staff costs that staff funded by Sport NI could not be placed on the furlough job retention scheme.</p> <p>ML suggested that UH had to be in a position to plan out how a 'return to normal' can be implemented. It was confirmed that scenario planning would be required once there was a clearer timescale for lifting the lockdown from government guidance in May. BP notified the Board that there was a Sport NI led meeting on 23 April, which may provide some guidance.</p> <p>JA confirmed that the umpire's expenses due were in the region of £8,000.</p>
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It was confirmed that the annual staff salary review would be considered at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Schools

It was advised that schools' affiliations would usually be issued at the end of March. MS & AR to meet to discuss process for schools' affiliation and fees.

AR & MS to continue discussions regards the constitution of a Boys' Committee.

It was proposed and agreed that the 2019/20 Burney Cup be shared between Friends School and Sullivan Upper and that both teams receive medals. The potential for a reception to recognise the achievement later in the year.

It was agreed that John Minnis be provided the opportunity to continue support of the Burney Cup with 2020/21 naming rights free of charge.

Competitions

IK outlined the discussions to date regards the resolution of the 2019/20 season. There had been 3 meetings of the Competitions Committee to discuss and consider scenarios. It was noted that a number of clubs had been lobbying members of the Committee.

IK confirmed there was still one outstanding fine.

It was agreed that the Fixtures Secretary send out season 20/21 affiliation forms with the provision that the season may be adversely affected with the lock-down.

EYHL

It was confirmed that proposals had been received by Hockey Ireland to expand the EYHL2. A proposal from the working group was circulated to the Board.

Concerns were raised that an extension of the EYHL2 could further weaken the standard in the Provincial Leagues. It was confirmed that the UH Competitions Committee were supportive of deferring significant changes to the National League structure to allow wider consultation with no changes implemented until 2021/22 season.

It was queried whether or not there had been a full review of EYHL, which could facilitate more informed decisions regards any restructure. IK to raise with BC.

It was confirmed that the Competitions Working Group were to propose no change in EYHL teams with no promotion or relegation.

League standings

Following the Hockey Ireland directive (Update No4 dated 9th April 2020), it was confirmed that the impact of the league equalisation method had been analysed and these were generally reflective of the current league positions.

In relation to the Provincial Leagues – as there was no opportunity to schedule the play-offs, it was proposed to implement 2 up/2 down in all leagues. This proposal was unanimously ratified by the Board in accordance with Rule 2(c) Competition Rules & Regulations Season 2019/20.

It was agreed that the Leagues would be published on the website as PDF documents and that they could not be published through 'fixtures live'.

It was agreed that BP, IK and MS would ensure the information is published and relevant adversely affected clubs be contacted.

The Board wished to acknowledge the significant amount of work undertaken by the Competitions Committee.

Umpires

It was confirmed that the submission of umpires' expenses was imminent.

It was advised that the Umpires AGM was postponed indefinitely subject to advice and guidance.

It was agreed that clubs should not be penalised for non-compliance as the season had not concluded, but that clubs be provided with feedback as to where they stood in terms of compliance and potentially issued informal warnings.

PK is to provide a list of issued radios to ML. It was agreed to apply an element of discretion regards deposits where radios do not work.

Coaching

The Coaching Working Group has been convened and CMcC to Chair its first meeting on 15th May.

Disciplinary

MS to facilitate Zoom meetings to progress legacy issues. GH clarified that meetings could go ahead without players present. It was agreed that the 'shut-down' provided an opportunity to clear legacy issues.

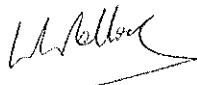
AGM

It was agreed that a brief Annual Report be compiled and circulated by the end of May. MS to progress.

	<p>It was clarified that HI were not transferring the Presidency until their AGM.</p> <p>It was likely that UH would follow the lead of HI and postpone the AGM until September. MS to clarify ramifications with NISF/Sport NI and seek legal advice if required.</p>
UHU Events	All events currently on hold.
Hockey Ireland	No update.
Correspondence	None noted.
AOB	<p>TT has made enquiries regarding contactless payment systems. Best option appeared to be a hand held machine with a fee of 1.75% of transactions.</p> <p>The Board wished to commend a number of clubs who had been involved in initiatives in their local communities, and to commend all carers, key workers and NHS staff from within the Ulster Hockey family.</p>
Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 19th May 2020</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.20pm</p>

APPROVED:

Dated: 19th May 2020



Billy Pollock

Chairperson Ulster Hockey

