



Minutes of the 121st Meeting of the Ulster Management Board, held on 19th May 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:

Item	Comments
Chairperson's remarks	The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting remotely.
Conflict of Interest	None noted
President's Report	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. Advised that a request had been made to make a virtual presentation to Queens Ladies HC, Ladies Premier League Winners.
Minutes of last Board meeting	Agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Proposed AR, seconded PK
Matters arising	Return to Play - It was agreed that there would have to be a reasonable amount of consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including parents. Return to play is likely to require an incremental approach. JA agreed to gather any information regarding any sensitivities for Umpires resuming play. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would have to consider fees. PK advised that UH should look into the possibility of a Business Interruption Insurance Claim. It was advised that there were 2 Appeals submitted regarding the implementation of automatic promotion/relegation for second bottom/second top of the leagues. MS is co-ordinating and establishing an Appeals Panel.

<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>The final league placings have been posted to the UH website and the Chair and Executive Manager contacted Bangor Men's HC and Mossley Ladies HC ahead of the publication to advise them of the outcome due to the adverse nature for those clubs.</p> <p>Following the Club Engagement Zoom meetings and need identified during those meetings, a Q&A seminar has been scheduled on Sponsorship, Income Generation and Grants. The Q&A session will be facilitated by an expert panel comprising Geoff Wilson (Sports Strategist & Marketing Expert), Chris Hood (Senior Client Advisor, S3 Solutions) and Kristen Jamieson (Linwoods).</p> <p>Following the beard shaving by Marc Scott and Billy Pollock, head-shaving by Paddy Grimes and Stephen Cuddy and leg waxing by Steven Arbuthnot, Dane Ward and Luke Roleston the total raised currently stands at just under £6,000.</p> <p>The University of Ulster sponsorship agreement of £5,000 per annum for 3 years has been agreed and the Partnership Agreement signed. The partnership will commence in June 2020.</p> <p>The Executive Office has advised that the application to the Central Good Relations Fund has been successful subject to pre-vouching checks. It is proposed that this grant be used to off-set the costs of the Domestic Hockey Officer's salary and for 2021-21 the role be split into the 2 part-time elements.</p> <p>A 'return to play' protocol framework is being developed to facilitate a safe return of the sport in line with the NI Assembly '5-step' plan.</p> <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>ML advised that the End of Year accounts were at an advanced stage of development and that the finer details of accruals were being considered.</p> <p>The accounts are to be presented at the next Board meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the budget for 2020/21 would require a major review to account for several months of disruption.</p> <p>It was agreed that the staff pay review would remain on hold until the next Finance Committee review.</p>
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Schools

AR outlined that consultation meetings had taken place with the Schools' Committees.

It was confirmed that tenders will be sought for venue hosts for school finals to ensure objectivity.

The Committees had discussed the representatives for the Irish Schools Championships.

There had been discussions around representation on the Irish Schools Committee and that the Boys' Committee had agreed to share the responsibility.

It had been agreed that where an event had reached the Final stage, that all finalists would receive a medal and the title shared.

Concerns had been raised regarding the overplaying of players in schools.

Competitions

The Committee met on the 4th May and the following was discussed:

- Update on current position regarding the Appeals and other correspondence from clubs;
- Consideration of structures for Intermediate and Junior Leagues. These discussions are deferred until the EYHL2 decision is made by the HI Board;
- The Committee is looking for confirmation of members ahead of the AGM;
- The annual planning day has been deferred

BP advised the situation regarding the EYHL2, that the HI Board's likely position was to maintain the status quo for this season. An alternative proposal has been provided by Leinster. It was outlined that the recommendation regarding EYHL2 had been made by the Competition Working Group on which all Provinces were represented. No changes should be introduced until after a full review of EYHL 1&2


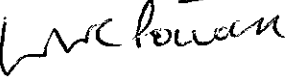
It was highlighted that the UH Competitions Committee had a number of concerns:

- Weakening of UH Leagues;
- Change for 2020/21 season would not allow sufficient time to canvas clubs;
- There is an issue with umpire availability – this is already stretched;
- There is a potential conflict of interest with the proposal.

The concerns are shared with Connaught and Munster.

	<p>CMcC raised a concern that a centralised approach was undermining the role of the Provinces. MS to discuss with Clare Kelly, Leinster.</p> <p><u>Umpires</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that all expenses had been paid other than one issue which was being rectified.</p> <p>The Board was made aware of a concern regards the supplier of the Umpires Portal platform and that an alternative supplier was being concerned as a contingency.</p> <p>Issues were raised regarding proposals from IHUA regards radios. ML & JA to discuss and resolve.</p> <p>BP suggested the Committee should take the opportunity to engage with Young Umpires etc.</p> <p><u>Coaching</u></p> <p>CMcC advised that the working group, including MS and Shirley McCay, had met twice. It was advised that the group meetings had been positive and that the individuals involved brought a broad range of experience.</p> <p>The focus of the new committee is broader than just coaching, and now includes oversight of the player pathway.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Working Group were content with the Terms of Reference that had been developed. These were agreed by the Board.</p> <p>It was advised that there were reviews being undertaken by the Interprovincial Working Group. SMcC had presented a response to and position of UH to potentially damaging proposals which involved centralisation. The Working Group agreed to support the position outlined in her paper and that it would be sent to HI as the agreed UH position.</p> <p>CMcC advised that UH had taken a lead in developing Player Pathway Manager roles with a remit to consider player welfare. Individuals were being considered for these roles.</p> <p><u>Disciplinary</u></p> <p>BP has written to the Committee Chair requesting Zoom Meetings to action outstanding issues.</p> <p><u>AGM</u></p> <p>The Annual report is to be developed and circulated.</p>
UHU Events	All events currently on hold.

Hockey Ireland	<p>Lisa Jacob has been appointed to the role of developing a strategy for HI. She has engaged with BP, MS and the UH Development staff.</p> <p>It was confirmed that information had been provided to Sharon Hutchison as part of her membership review.</p>
Correspondence	None noted.
AOB	<p>It was raised that UH needed to consider its position regards an Annual Awards Dinner.</p> <p>MS to make all clubs aware of the President's availability for 'virtual presentations'.</p> <p>It was agreed that the allocation of time for the President's tenure should be considered to allow a fair allocation.</p> <p>TT confirmed that he had tentatively identified someone willing to stand as future President.</p>
Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 16th June 2020</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.20pm</p>

APPROVED : 
 CHAIR UH
DATE : 16th June 2020

