



Minutes of the 125th Meeting of the Ulster Management Board, held on 20th October 2020 at 7.00pm by Zoom conference call

Present: Billy Pollock (BP), Peter Kelly (PK), Linda Johnston (LJ), Mervyn Logan (ML), Iain Kelly (IK), Ann Rosa (AR), Jonny Rose (JR), 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.</p> <p>The Chair advised that Eric Brady (Hockey Ireland Chair) has accepted an offer to dial in to an UH Management Board meeting and intends to do so at the November meeting.</p>
Conflict of Interest	None noted
President's Report	<p>TT advised that he had attended a number of matches:</p> <p>26 September – Armagh v Dungannon 3 October – Bangor Men v Parkview 10 October – Ulster Elks v Queens</p> <p>Advised that he may be unable to attend AGM due to the change of date clashing with a prior commitment.</p> <p>As this was his final meeting, TT expressed his thanks to all the Management Board and MS and the staff for their support throughout their tenure. He passed his congratulations to Rosie Rea ahead of her appointment as President at the upcoming AGM.</p> <p>TT noted some of the highlights of his tenure as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opening of the new pitch at Queens - The Olympic Qualifiers - Numerous club awards dinners and the UH awards dinner. <p>TT finally expressed his best wishes for success over the coming 12-18 months throughout RR's tenure and welcomes the appointment of James Wray (Raphoe Men's) as incoming Vice-President.</p>

	<p>On behalf of the Board, BP expressed thanks to TT for all the work and effort put in over the last 18 months and in particular the efforts in making the 2019 Awards Dinner a success. This was endorsed by all.</p>
Minutes of last Board meeting	<p>Agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Proposed PK, seconded ML</p>
Matters arising	<p>It was agreed that during this difficult period, a degree of flexibility could be applied when collecting fees should any clubs be facing difficulties in this regard. A statement on this is to be prepared for the AGM – MS/BP/ML</p> <p>Acknowledgement and congratulation of Coleraine Ladies HC on achieving their Clubmark accreditation.</p> <p>It was agreed that a 'Code of Practice' would be required for the mascot being developed – MS</p> <p>A concern was raised regarding the UH social media post regards the face masks and it was agreed that the words 'keep safe' are removed.</p> <p>Gemma McMeekin – daughter of Coach and Workforce Development Officer Jonathan McMeekin – has been selected for the Ireland U17 Talent Development Squad in golf. At 11 years old she is the youngest member of the squad. The Board passes its congratulations and acknowledges this fantastic achievement.</p>
Standing Committee Reports	<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>Update on the current situation regards COVID-19 restrictions and return to play.</p> <p>The Ulster Hockey Chair and staff attended refugee awareness sessions delivered by Bryson Intercultural. This session was informative and enjoyable and highlighted the potential of this type of programme for positive work in the community and raising the profile of Ulster Hockey.</p> <p>Invoices for Senior clubs have been raised and are in the process of being issued to clubs. Youth invoices are to follow once the number of youth teams is confirmed with clubs.</p> <p>The tender was issued to 3 potential consultants. We have had one submission (received 19th October), 1 decline and one no response from these consultants. A proposal is to be made to the Finance Committee.</p> <p>Due to the increased investment from Antrim & Newtownabbey BC, we have been able to appoint a co-ordinator until March 2021 to deliver this programme. We are delighted to welcome Andrew Johnston back to the Ulster Hockey team on a temporary basis.</p>

A potential insurance claim under interruption of business has been submitted and indications are that some costs are retrievable.

An application has been submitted for a Social Enterprise COVID-19 Grant to cover projected loss of revenue for the September 2020 – March 2021 period. The closing date is Friday 23rd October.

The development of the mascot is being commissioned. A 'corporate ballot' scheme for generating sponsors is being developed by the Ulster Hockey team.

Finance

ML noted that UH remains in positive financial health but expressed the need for caution due to the potential impact of COVID-19.

It was reported back that there had been no formal meetings of the Finance Committee but there had been regular communications between the members. It was agreed that the Committee should be convened as soon as possible.

Schools

AR advised that Conor Savage was doing a good job of keeping in touch with the schools and committees.

CS is currently making contact with the schools to gather information on who is intending on continuing to play.

It was advised that Colin Walker (Banbridge) had provided a good format for the McCullough Cup should restrictions allow.

Competitions

IK provided a brief update on the health of Committee member Brian Caruth following a medical procedure in the Ulster Hospital. The Board recorded its best wishes to BC.

IK had circulated the minutes of the most recent Committee meeting and noted:

Most queries being received were regarding match postponements. The process for dealing with such requests had been working well.

An in depth discussion regards the recently imposed Executive restrictions took place and it was recognised that:

- There is an issue with the impact of training restrictions due the Government of Ireland restrictions
- There is an issue for a number of clubs regarding access to training facilities where the pitches are operated by Local Authorities.

IK raised some concerns and reported some legal guidance that the wording of the Executive's regulation referred to 'no contact' rather than 'non

contact'. This has a significantly different legal implication for training.

A number of view points were expressed on the future direction for training:

GH – Suggested that UH must provide clubs with clear guidance on what training is allowed;

LJ – expressed concerns that to promote continued training was promoting an unnecessary level of risk in clubs;

CR – highlighted the important issue of ensuring fairness for all clubs;

RR & JR – both highlighted the need to consider the mental and physical well being of our members and particularly the younger ones.

BP – Agreed that there would have to be a reasonable lead-in time before competitive matches reconvene.

Taking into consideration the legal implications of continued training, fairness on clubs and the impact of travel around training and other off-field factors, it was agreed that a suspension of training until 13th November would be implemented.

This decision would remain under continued review, due to the number of variable factors involved.

A communication is to go to clubs to advise of this position and commend them for their admirable efforts to date in adhering to the protocols.

Umpires

LJ reiterated the issues faced with clubs in complying with the requirements related to Umpiring.

The Umpires Committee are currently promoting engagement with the rules courses for umpires to assist clubs struggling to provide umpires.

Coaching

A Coaching Committee meeting is to be scheduled to appoint a Chair to the Committee.

Disciplinary

Details of the new Committee were provided and endorsed by the Board.

Proposed GH – agreed by all.

GH submitted a full report and highlighted that the new procedures were going well.

There have been 23 yellow card reports & 2 hearings.

1 code of conduct remains outstanding.

Due to unintended issues which had been identified, it was agreed that the information published on the website would be limited to ensure

	individuals are not identifiable.
UHU Events	<p><u>AGM</u></p> <p>To be held on 27th October by Zoom.</p> <p>A highlights paper for the July – September period is to be developed and communicated before the AGM - BP</p> <p>Consideration to be given to using Google or Zoom poll for votes.</p> <p>A summary of the complaints and appeals received over the last 12-18 months to be compiled and agreed. In particular the final closure of the long running complaint dating back to February 2019, which has included continued correspondence from the complainant to the Department of Communities and Sport NI, most of which is often inaccurate and misleading – MS/BP/PK/JR</p>
Hockey Ireland	HI AGM confirmed for 26 th November. Clubs to be encouraged to engage.
Correspondence	The Board wished to express congratulations to the Talent Coaches for implementing a robust selection process and getting the Ulster teams in a good state of readiness for the (postponed) Inter-pros.
AOB	None
Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 17th November (by Zoom)</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.30</p>