



Minutes of the 126th Meeting of the Ulster Management Board, held on 17th November 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),

In attendance: Rosie Rea (RR) President, Marc Scott (MS) Executive Manager, Eric Brady (Chair, Hockey Ireland for start of meeting only)

Apologies: Christine Reid (CR), James Wray (JW),

Item	Comments
Chairperson's remarks	<p>The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting remotely.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed EB to the meeting and thanked him for giving up his time to meet with the Board.</p> <p>BP noted the passing of Arthur O'Neill and paid tribute to him as a long term Ladies Hockey correspondent and stalwart of Pegasus HC. Condolences are passed to the Club and Mr O'Neill's family. This sentiment was endorsed by all.</p> <p>RR shared her memories of Mr O'Neill and recognised his contribution to Pegasus.</p>
Conflict of Interest	<p>Conflict of Interests to be reviewed and updated. Forms to be sent to BP/MS.</p> <p>BP, IK and AR noted conflict of interest with new roles on HI Board.</p>
President's Report	<p>The new President (RR) was formally welcomed to her new position and she and James Wray were wished well in their roles. BP noted that the Board would be supportive in her carrying out her duties.</p> <p>RR confirmed that she had already had a discussion with JW by means of an introduction.</p>
Minutes of last Board meeting	Agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Proposed PK, seconded AR
Matters arising	<p><u>Hockey Ireland Chair</u></p> <p>Eric Brady (HI Chair) was welcomed to the meeting and gave an honest and frank overview of the current situation, progress being made and challenges facing Hockey Ireland</p>

	<p>Key areas highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HI AGM is on 26th November; - Highlighted that HI were facing a financial deficit situation; - Noted that one more nomination was needed for the HI Board; - Encouraged Ulster representation on the sub committees of HI; - HI strategy has been drafted; - HI has been dealing with a number of appeals re the conclusion of the leagues and allocation of European places; - The recent challenges have highlighted the need to review the HI bye-laws; - Highlighting the need for consistency across the sport, there is an objective to unify some areas of operation across Ireland. <p><u>Constitution</u> – BP noted that amendments had been made to the Constitution following the AGM.</p> <p>Changes proposed by the Umpires are to be included in the newly drafted bye-laws.</p> <p>The amended Constitution was formally accepted.</p>
<p>Standing Committee Reports</p>	<p><u>Executive Manager’s report</u></p> <p>A report was circulated to the Board members.</p> <p>The process for developing a strategy by appointing an external consultant was agreed – ratifying the recommendation made by the Finance Committee.</p> <p>MS outlined the details and experience of the consultants and a 3 stage project was agreed with payments and progress made once the deliverables in each stage are completed.</p> <p>ML proposed, PK seconded. MS to action the project initiation meeting to include BP & PK.</p> <p>Issues were raised regards the U18s training, and potentially an U19 squad training out-with the COVID restrictions. MS to advise and develop and implement a Permit system for events.</p> <p>MS presented a proposal for the development of Club 1896 – a business network and patron’s scheme for Ulster Hockey. This was well received and MS is encouraged to proceed with this project.</p> <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>Committee had met on the 10th November.</p> <p>ML noted that UH was on a good financial standing despite the challenges of COVID.</p>

It had been agreed by the Finance Committee to purchase a laptop for the use of the Chair – this would help with continuity, information management and GDPR compliance.

The Finance Committee was committed to meeting before every Board meeting following a few months with no formal meetings during the COVID lockdown.

Schools

AR thanked Linda for the list of schools umpires.

AR highlighted issues regarding the disparity between regulations applied to curricular v extra-curricular hockey.

Competitions

The Competitions Committee has met twice since the October Board, focussing on future competitions.

IK confirmed a proposal for a structure for the leagues had been provided by UUJ. This was an interesting proposal and a strong foundation for discussions but at this point it was hoped the leagues could recommence at some point whilst still adhering to the current rules.

There is a significant issue posed by Raphoe, who have yet to fulfil any fixtures. IK is to discuss options with RHC – with a potential of them playing non-competitive fixtures.

It was confirmed that it was unlikely that there would be any matches until January.

It was confirmed that there had been no meeting of the HI competitions committee and that decisions on the National leagues were on hold pending the Irish Government announcements in early December.

Umpires

LJ provided a report and reviewed the compliance history.

It was agreed that at the next meeting, waiving of compliance sanctions would be discussed.

October rules courses have been cancelled

Issues were raised regards the communications around the new HI rules courses and the limited consultation.

MS to discuss issues with LJ.

Coaching

	<p>Mick McKinnon has agreed to Chair the committee but not act as Board representative. He is committed to providing reports to the Board.</p> <p><u>Disciplinary</u></p> <p>No issues reported</p>
UHU Events	No events
Hockey Ireland	<p>HI AGM confirmed for 26th November. Clubs to be encouraged to engage.</p> <p>The Board wished AR all the best in her new role as HI President post-AGM, and BP & IK success in their pending roles on the HI Board.</p>
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 15th December (by Zoom)</p> <p>The meeting closed at 22.20</p>