



Minutes of the 127<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ulster Management Board, held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7.00pm by Zoom conference call

**Present:** Billy Pollock (BP), Peter Kelly (PK), Mervyn Logan (ML), Iain Kelly (IK), Ann Rosa (AR), Gareth Herron (GH), Christine Reid (CR),

**In attendance:** Rosie Rea (RR) President, Marc Scott (MS) Executive Manager

**Apologies:** James Wray (JW), Linda Johnston (LJ), Jonathan Rose (JR)

Item	Comments
Chairperson's remarks	The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting remotely.  On behalf of the Ulster Hockey Board, the Chair expressed best wishes to Christine Reid for her wedding on Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December to Jamie Aiken (former Chair of Umpires Committee)
Conflict of Interest	No conflicts of interest declared.  BP, IK and AR noted conflict of interest with new roles on HI Board, which will now be treated as a standing conflict of interest declaration.
President's Report	RR reported that there had been limited opportunity to undertake any Presidential duties as there had been no hockey activity.
Minutes of last Board meeting	Agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Proposed PK, seconded AR
Matters arising	None
Standing Committee Reports	<b><u>Executive Manager's report</u></b>  A report was circulated to the Board members. The following areas were highlighted:  The process for developing a strategy had commenced and a project initiation meeting had taken place with the Consultants, MS, BP and PK.  It was agreed that the Board would delegate COVID decisions and communications to the Executive Manager.  The Finance Committee agreed to revert to last years Junior fees for 2020/21 with a view to implementing a planned increase in 2021/22.  NB is currently re-issuing invoices and refunds to those clubs which have already submitted payment.

Sport NI Sporting Clubs Programme – 1 year extension - Ulster Hockey has had an indicative award letter for the most positive award of the 3 scenarios provide by Sport NI. The awards for 2021/22 is indicated to be £130,740.

The Sport NI Sustainability Fund has been launched with clubs to submit applications vis the governing body. Closing date for the final submission of the application is 11<sup>th</sup> January with a closing date for clubs to submit to UH 5<sup>th</sup> January. An information session for clubs was held on 10<sup>th</sup> January,

### **Finance**

Finance Committee had met on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

ML noted that UH was on a good financial standing and the bank balance was healthy.

A draft budget has been developed subject to refinement.

A new auditor is being appointed through a procurement process.

Ann Rosa acknowledged and thanked all Board members Staff & Committee members for the flowers sent to her to recognise her appointment as Hockey Ireland President.

### **Schools**

AR advised that Conor Savage was meeting with the schools committees regarding the potential format for competitions and to determine the appetite for competition in schools.

An update was provided on the progress of Paul Osbourne's daughter's health and best wishes are recorded by the Board.

### **Competitions**

The EYHL review group met on the 10<sup>th</sup> December with the remit of reviewing the effectiveness of EYHL1 &2. Timescales for the review and stakeholders for engagement have been identified. The views of the clubs and Provinces are to be gathered through a common set of discussion points with a consultation to be scheduled in Ulster in January 2021.

Discussion points can be added to the agenda via IK.

It was suggested that the press should be included as stakeholders.

The Competitions Committee has discussed options for resumption of leagues/competitive hockey which is unlikely to happen until February 2021 at the very earliest.

An option remains under consideration that the leagues are 'null and void' and that competitive hockey resumes in the Cup format.

	<p>Concerns over the collection of fees was highlighted.</p> <p><b><u>Umpires</u></b></p> <p>No update required as there has been no hockey activity</p> <p><b><u>Coaching</u></b></p> <p>No update required as there has been no activity.</p> <p><b><u>Disciplinary</u></b></p> <p>No issues reported</p>
UHU Events	No events
Hockey Ireland	<p>Next HI Board is on 16<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>UH to provide a monthly paper.</p> <p>BP to raise the issue of the Development post.</p>
Correspondence	<p>Ulster Hockey was in receipt of correspondence from John J McNally Solicitors regards a legal challenge to the ongoing restrictions being applied in youth sport. The solicitors wished to clarify what lobbying Ulster Hockey had done, or intended to do in this regard. A short response was provided as follows:</p> <p><i>'Ulster Hockey has been compliant with the regulations as determined by the NI Executive. In terms of lobbying, as an organisation we are members of the NI Sports Forum and are a part of the ongoing lobbying undertaken by that organisation on this matter'.</i></p>
AOB	All raised glasses for the festive period.
Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January (by Zoom)</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20.15</p>