



Minutes of the 130<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ulster Hockey Management Board, held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.00pm by Zoom conference call

**Present:** Billy Pollock (BP), Peter Kelly (PK), Iain Kelly (IK), Ann Rosa (AR), Gareth Herron (GH), Christine Reid (CR), Linda Johnston (LJ), Jonathan Rose (JR), Mervyn Logan (ML), Neal Lucas (NL)

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

**Apologies:** James Wray (JW),

Item	Comments
Chairperson's remarks	<p>The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting remotely with specific welcome to Neal Lucas as the newest Board member.</p> <p>Expressed congratulations to the Ireland Women's squad for a successful test series v GB, to Queens University for hosting the event safely and successfully and BBC NI for excellent local coverage.</p>
Conflict of Interest	No conflicts of interest declared outside of 'standing' conflicts of interest.
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 ML, seconded PK
Matters arising	All Board members went through introductions for the benefit of NL following his co-option to the Board.
Standing Committee Reports	<p><b><u>Executive Manager's report</u></b></p> <p>MS provided a report, drawing attention to the following areas:</p> <p><u>COVID restrictions:</u></p> <p>Clubs are currently advised that no hockey activity is to take place in line with the National Lockdown. This position will continue to be reviewed and clubs and members advised of any changes. The current restrictions end on 1<sup>st</sup> April with the Executive having indicated that the review of this position will commence on 16<sup>th</sup> April.</p> <p><u>125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</u></p> <p>Work on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programme is continuing with a social media launch having taken place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March.</p>

A commemorative logo has been designed and launched.

A request has been sent to all clubs requesting an update on their histories and for the submission of photos and memorabilia to be included on an online historical archive.

The Executive Manager has been liaising with Leonie Hannan, Programme Convener for MA Public History at Queens University to source a suitable individual to manage the research and archive on a voluntary basis.

#### Good Relations

The 2021/22 Central Good Relations Programme closed for applications on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. An application has been submitted seeking an increased award of £40,666 through which UH would hope to support a full time GR Officer as opposed to the current part time provision. It was advised that an outcome of the application was still pending.

#### Strategy

The Consultation phase has commenced with meetings having taken place with the Department for Communities, Sport NI and Hockey Ireland. Workshops with the Board and staff are scheduled for the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

#### Business Network & Patrons Scheme

An initial draft idea has been compiled to develop a Business Network and Patrons scheme designed to provide financial support to Ulster Hockey, with a likely focus on the areas of Talent Development and Community Development. A supplementary presentation has been developed to outline the current plan and some business leaders have been approached to market test the proposal. The process of engaging the business community is continuing.

The Executive Manager is also investigating the possibility of the joining the Belfast Chamber of Commerce.

In conjunction with the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo, a logo for 'Club 1896' has been commissioned.

#### Sports Sustainability Fund

Ulster Hockey has received £47,584 from the Sport Sustainability Fund. A form of acceptance has been submitted and we await final payment.

The Finance Officer and Executive Manager have been liaising with Sport NI regards the clubs application with a number of queries addressed. We are awaiting the final notification of the award to be made to clubs.

Once the outcome of the award being made to clubs is confirmed, an announcement will be made on the website and social media

### **Finance**

Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March circulated.

Thanks to Nicki Bayes are noted for providing financial papers in a timely manner.

It was noted that outstanding fees would continue to require attention with MS continuing to contact clubs to encourage payment.

ML stated that the Financial position was looking very positive.

A discount on 2021/22 fees would be agreed once the final financial position is known post April 2021.

Ulster Hockey Ltd would commence trading from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. It was updated that Johnston Kennedy had been appointed as auditors for Ulster Hockey Ltd.

It was recommended by the Finance Committee that the staff receive a 1% salary increase. This was in recognition of the difficult scenarios and circumstances being dealt with over the last 12 months.

Proposed ML, seconded PK

### **Schools**

AR advised there was little to report as there had been no hockey activity.

The Board noted the sad news concerning the death of Sullivan Schoolboys hockey representative Paul Osbourne's daughter Rachel. Ulster Hockey has sent a card to the family and made a small donation to the family's nominated charity.

40 schools responded to the 'return to hockey' survey with approximately 1/3 keen to restart – focussed mainly on their 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

There is a clear appetite for summer term hockey if possible.

22 schools have entered the 'Game Time' running challenge.

### **Competitions**

The Competitions Committee are continuing to meet on a 2-weekly basis.

Continuing to discuss the outcomes of the Executive Meetings and any relevant easing of restrictions and impact on competitive hockey.

Conor Savage has issued a survey to clubs and the final outcomes will be known by the end of w/c 15<sup>th</sup> March for consideration.

It was noted that Lisnagarvey Hockey Club had kindly offered to support Ulster Hockey's return to hockey with provision of their facilities for

	<p>competition.</p> <p><b><u>Umpires</u></b></p> <p>There has been minimal activity.</p> <p>Noted that there was a small issue around the function to report back numbers of Ulster based Umpires attending the online rules course. This was being raised with Linda Monaghan (Interim Development Manager HI)</p> <p>It was noted that Linda Coughlin had umpired in the GB series and performed well.</p> <p><b><u>Coaching</u></b></p> <p>No formal update from the Committee.</p> <p>It was noted that contracts are being developed for coaches. The Committee will implement a formal process for contracts to be provided to all casual and appointed coaches.</p> <p><b><u>Disciplinary</u></b></p> <p>No update required as there has not been any hockey activity.</p>
UHU Events	No events
Hockey Ireland	Strategic Plan has been launched.
Correspondence	No correspondence
Ulster Hockey Ltd Board	<p>It was agreed that an expression of interest process be applied for all Board members to note interest in the new Management Board and any committees in the new structure. MS to circulate and all to complete by 31<sup>st</sup> March.</p> <p>MS to draft an advert for Committee and Board recruitment.</p>
AOB	<p>NI Human Rights – the Board agreed to formally sign up to the NI Sport and Human Rights Forum – this area was seen as being reflective of work being undertaken by the Executive.</p> <p>Proposed ML Seconded JR</p>
Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April (by Zoom)</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.00</p>