

Minutes of the 134th Meeting of the Ulster Hockey Management Board, held on 17th August 2021 at 7.00pm at by Zoom conference call

Present: Billy Pollock (BP), Iain Kelly (IK), Ann Rosa (AR), Christine Reid (CR), Linda Johnston (LJ), Jonathan Rose (JR), Mervyn Logan (ML), Peter Kelly (PK), Gareth Herron (GH); James Wray (JW),

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

Apologies: Neal Lucas (NL)

Item	Comments
Chairperson's remarks	The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting remotely. BOP acknowledged that he had reluctantly accepted the resignation of David Agnew from the Board.
Conflict of Interest	No conflicts other than standing HI conflict – BP, IK, AR
President's Report	RR highlighted the achievements of the 7 players selected to represent Ireland of GBNI at the Olympic Games in Tokyo. She congratulated all of the players on behalf of the Board.
Minutes of last Board meeting	Agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Proposed ML seconded PK
Matters arising	It was confirmed that payment agreements were in place for any outstanding fees for 2020/21 and that those clubs in question were adhering to the agreements.
Standing Committee Reports	<p><u>Executive Manager's report</u></p> <p>MS provided a report, drawing attention to the following areas:</p> <p>Fixtures Live will cease supporting hockey in August 2021. Ulster Hockey has been in liaison with STG Sports – current web provider – regards a replacement system ahead of the coming season. There have also been meetings with STG and representatives of the Umpires committee to consider the most appropriate platform for the Umpires. It had been agreed that to ensure a smooth transition the current Umpires Portal would still be operated.</p> <p>MS advised of an issue with the U18 Boys squad attending test matches in Glasgow. The issue was addressed by the Coach – Patrick Grimes - at the event effectively ensuring a minor issue of player conduct did not escalate. The Board agreed that Patrick's dealing of the issue should be commended. Parents had been made aware of the issue and players warned regards future conduct.</p>

MS raised that there was as yet no confirmation of the funding process from Sport NI post-April 2022. This is highlighted as a potential organisational risk.

Costs around the development of the Club 1896 Business Network have been incorporated into an application being submitted to the Dormant Accounts Fund. There has been a request for further information to be provided to the National Lottery which was sent to them on Monday 15th August. We are still awaiting an outcome for this application.

Finance

No written report provided.

ML advised that the Finance Committee were scheduled to meet at the start of September.

It was proposed that from a security perspective, the balance of the current account should be reduced and that an identified figure, including the reserve, be transferred to the Business Investment Account. This proposal was agreed.

It was highlighted that the current financial position was showing a larger than anticipated surplus. However, this is likely to reduce over the remainder of the financial year.

It was advised that the final accounts, signed off by the Auditors, had been received. These would be presented to the Finance Committee and, if accepted, provided for final approval at the September Management Board meeting.

Competitions

The Men's & Women's Premier Leagues are scheduled to commence 11th September 2021 and the fixtures have been added to Gameday and are being sent to clubs.

Other leagues are to commence on the 18th September.

The 2021/22 Competition Rules and Regulations have been drafted with an amended format of the Intermediate League added to the rules.

The Competitions Committee are scheduling the Club Forum and require Umpire input and a reminder of the COVID protocols.

It was advised that the leagues were starting slightly earlier than usual to allow for contingency planning should there be any COVID disruption.

It is anticipated that the MMW Kirk Cup and Denman Shield will commence in November with the Boxing Day final scheduled.

Schools

	<p>Schools return week commencing 24th August.</p> <p>The Schools Committees are being consulted on the potential of an Indoor Competition.</p> <p>A tender process for the hosting of Schools Finals is being developed.</p> <p><u>Umpires</u></p> <p>An Umpire Development Strategy Group has been launched and nominations are being sought.</p> <p>The Umpires Committee are pleased that the Techs System is still in place as the transition to Gameday is made.</p> <p>Thanks were articulated to Ian McKerron for co-ordinating the Umpires for the Celtic Cup.</p> <p><u>Coaching</u></p> <p>No report</p> <p><u>Disciplinary</u></p> <p>No update required as there has not been any hockey activity.</p> <p><u>Board Recruitment</u></p> <p>A brief update was provided regards the Board recruitment process. Engagement was ongoing with 2 interested and qualified individuals.</p>
<p>Ulster Hockey Events</p>	<p><u>125th Anniversary</u></p> <p>The working group has continued to meet and the following programme is in place:</p> <p>Interview Series – 1st Interview has been published with second to be published weeks commencing 16th August. Further interviews are currently being filmed.</p> <p>Youth Festival – The Youth Officer and Joan McCloy are working closely to deliver a youth festival of blitz events across the Province at the end of the domestic season.</p> <p>Archive – The volunteer Historian has been liaising with clubs and members of the working group to develop an online archive. Some club histories are now available and information continues to be uploaded and researched.</p> <p>Exhibition – Plans are in place for an exhibition in early 2022. The Executive Manager has been in discussion with Queens University History Department to secure a Masters Student Placement to co-ordinate this project.</p>

	<p>Challenge Matches – Challenge matches showcasing the past, present and future of Ulster Hockey will take place as a season finale to the 21/22 season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives of founding members and clubs celebrating centenaries will play an exhibition match representing the past; - Ulster senior squads will play Rest of Ireland select teams representing the present; - Ulster senior squads Ulster U16 & U18 teams will play matches v Rest of Ireland select teams representing the future. <p>Celebration Dinner – A celebration dinner is scheduled for 21st January 2022. It is intended that this will take place in Belfast City Hall and we await final confirmation from the Council confirming acceptance of this event.</p>
Hockey Ireland	<p>The HI Chair had attended a meeting of the clubs on 5th August. The communication of the meeting and subsequently the attendance was poor.</p> <p>A follow up meeting is scheduled for 1st September.</p> <p>HI are seeking an Ulster representative on the Participation Committee.</p> <p>Progress is ongoing with Para-hockey. MS advised that communications to the Club Development Officer had been limited in this matter.</p> <p>The 4 Provinces representatives had a positive meeting – CR provided an overview of the constructive outcomes from this meeting. BP thanked CR for attending and it was agreed that she would continue as the Ulster representative on this group.</p> <p>CR also advised that she would be happy to assist and support any initiative with Para-hockey.</p>
Correspondence	<p>NICGC AGM – PK to attend on behalf of Ulster Hockey.</p> <p>GH raised a query regards NI representation in the Commonwealth Games. BP outlined the current situation noting that there were ongoing discussions and that this remained on the HI agenda. A number of feasibility issues were raised i.e finances and attainment of ranking points.</p> <p>It was noted that no response had been provided to UH in respect of the letter sent on behalf of the clubs regards membership (9 June 2021). MS to follow up.</p> <p>BP advised that the NI Sports & Human Rights Forum would be meeting on 22nd September. This would be the first meeting since UH had formally signed up to the Forum.</p>
AOB	
Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 21st September</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.05</p>