

Minutes of the 135th Meeting of the Ulster Hockey Management Board, held on 19th October 2021 at 7.00pm at Ulster Hockey Office & Zoom Conference call

Present: Billy Pollock (BP), Iain Kelly (IK), Ann Rosa (AR), Christine Reid (CR), Jonathan Rose (JR), Mervyn Logan (ML), Peter Kelly (PK), Gareth Herron (GH), Neal Lucas (NL), Tim Cockram (TC), Kenton Hilman (KH)

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

Apologies: James Wray (JW), Linda Johnston (LJ)

Item	Comments
Chairperson's remarks	The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting and welcomes the newly appointed Board members Tim Cockram (Talent & Pathways Chair) and Kenton Hilman (Finance Chair).
Conflict of Interest	No conflicts other than standing HI conflict – BP, IK, AR New Board members to return Conflict of Interest declarations.
President's Report	RR provided a report noting that she'd been on holiday therefore her activities were limited. The following was highlighted: 9th October: travelled to Friends School Lisburn to watch South Antrim Ladies 1stX1 v Owls Ladies 1stX1 in a Senior 2 League match. 16th October: attended two of the Ladies Irish Senior Cup matches. Watched most of the first half of the QUB1stX1 v UCC1stX1 match. Congratulations to Queen's and Good Luck in the next round are recorded. Travelled to New Forge to watch Pegasus1stX1 v Ulster Elks 1stX1. Congratulations to Pegasus and Good Luck in the next round were recorded. 17th October: invited by Parkview Ladies Hockey Club to attend the Under 11 Girls Blitz they were hosting at The Valley Leisure Centre, Newtownabbey. The President expressed her thanks to all the volunteers from all the represented clubs who coached, umpired and looked after the girls who had a great time enjoying playing the matches. Thanks to Parkview on a well organised event are recorded.
Minutes of last Board meeting	Subject to agreed amendments the minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Proposed AR seconded JR
Matters arising	The Board wished to recognise the retirement of Lizzie Colvin from International hockey and passes congratulations on her career.

Standing Committee Reports	<p><u>Executive Manager's report</u></p> <p>MS provided a report, drawing attention to the following areas:</p> <p>Gameday is now being used for fixtures management and the results area of the website. Some issues over publication of results and league tables have now been rectified.</p> <p>The Good Relations Programme commenced 4th October 2021. 8-week collaborative programmes with the GAA are being delivered.</p> <p>Meetings to deliver a presentation around the strategy have been delivered to Hockey Ireland, Leinster Hockey Board, Department for Communities representatives and Sport NI staff.</p> <p>The Minister for Communities has agreed to host a reception at Stormont for the launch of the strategy and to mark the 125th Anniversary of hockey in Ulster. We are awaiting the Ministers Private Office confirming a date for this event.</p> <p>At a briefing on 8th October delivered by Richard Archibald, Sport NI Director of Sport, it was reported that the current Sporting Clubs programme would be extended by a further year, although there would be some scope for flexibility in delivery of the programme. This provides some stability in terms of the staff structure for the next 18 months.</p> <p>The recruitment of the Domestic Hockey role has been considered and a different structure has been identified as a preferred option. A proposal is to be made to the Finance Committee in November 2021 as part of a wider staff structure review based on the available budgets which will include the re-alignment of the Finance Officer remit and the recruitment of a Marketing/Events focussed role.</p> <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that £200,000 had been transferred to the Savings Account for good secure financial practice reasons.</p> <p>ML advised that the current management accounts were showing a significant profit. However, it was noted that this would realign over the coming months where some expenditure against the income reflected in the accounts would occur (i.e. coaches costs for camps)</p> <p>All fees invoices have been issued to clubs with a deadline of 30th November for payment.</p> <p>3 clubs are still outstanding 2020/21 fees and are in compliance with agreed payment plans. All outstanding fees will be settled by 31st October.</p> <p><u>Competitions</u></p> <p>The leagues are continuing with a small number of disruptions due to COVID.</p>

	<p>IK raised the possibility of a review of competitive hockey which has been discussed with the Executive Manager. This would be in place to assist with addressing structural issues in the leagues.</p> <p>It was noted that the website was now updated with leagues, fixtures and results. IK wished to recognise Conor Savage's efforts in getting the website updated.</p> <p>The Competitions Committee has been in discussions regards the scheduling of the Kirk Cup and Ulster Shield.</p> <p><u>Schools</u></p> <p>AR provided a full report of schools' hockey.</p> <p>AR highlighted</p> <p>Boys</p> <p>Ulster's qualifying matches for the Irish Schools Tournament have been completed with 7 Ulster teams successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banbridge Academy • Cookstown High School • Friends School • Methodist College • Royal Belfast Academical Institution • Sullivan Upper School • Wallace High School <p>The McCullough Cup is underway and Conor Savage is putting the results up on the UH website.</p> <p>Semi-finals are scheduled for 1st December with the final on 8th December. A tender process for schools' finals venues has been issued.</p> <p>Girls:</p> <p>With the Super League Cup cancelled this term, schools are playing these fixtures as friendly matches.</p> <p>The 1st round of Belfast Telegraph Schools' Cup is to be played before 23rd October. Two ties have already been completed last week.</p> <p>The status of fees is being reviewed to ensure all clubs are eligible.</p> <p><u>Umpires</u></p> <p>UJ provided report in her absence. It was noted that the Development Committee continued to address the Umpire shortage issue and were considering the negative impact of the centralisation of Umpire development courses to HI.</p> <p><u>Coaching</u></p>
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	<p>TC advised that a meeting was to be scheduled of the Coaching & Pathways Committee as an introduction.</p> <p>Advised that he had read and considered the terms of reference for the committee and had identified areas where the committee could improve its focus ensuring the objectives of the committee are fully met.</p> <p><u>Disciplinary</u></p> <p>GH provided a report on behalf of the Disciplinary Committee. It was highlighted that:</p> <p>The Panel met on the 23/09/2021 to consider a Red Card Report awarded on the 11.09.2021. However, due to the quality of the reports and other pertinent matters that Panel decided that player should be warned as to their future conduct. The outcome has since been published on the UH website.</p> <p>Yellow cards are now being reported on match-cards. To date there have been 20 Yellow cards reported in Men's hockey and 7 in Ladies hockey. At a recent Umpires Briefing, umpires were reminded of the new reporting arrangements. To ensure that no cards are overlooked, the Competitions Committee have provided me access to the match-card mailbox, so that no one gets overlooked.</p> <p>It was proposed that Roisin Walsh be appointed to the Committee.</p> <p>Proposed GH, seconded CR.</p>
Ulster Hockey Events	No report
Hockey Ireland	<p>The issue around the HI fees and EGM which has been called by Ulster clubs.</p> <p>JR & PK provided an overview of discussions with representatives of the requisitioning clubs. It was agreed that UH would be required to support its members clubs but had to be aware of the position of the majority of clubs.</p>
Correspondence	None
AOB	<p>It was noted that a number of Ulster players are to be involved in the Irish teams, participating in the World Cup qualifiers.</p> <p>The Board wished all of the players their best wishes in the qualifiers in Pisa and Cardiff respectively.</p>
Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 16th November</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.50</p>