

Minutes of the 140th Meeting of the Ulster Hockey Board, held on 1st March 2022 at 7.00pm by Zoom Conference call

Present: Billy Pollock (BP), Iain Kelly (IK), Ann Rosa (AR), Christine Reid (CR), Peter Kelly (PK), Tim Cockram (TC), Jonathan Rose (JR),

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

Apologies: Linda Johnston (LJ)), Kenton Hilman (KH), Neal Lucas (NL), Gareth Herron (GH), Mervyn Logan (ML),

Item	Comments
Chairperson's remarks	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting noting that it had been rearranged from earlier in February due to half-term availability of Board members.</p> <p>The Chair paused to remember Vice President, James Wray, who had passed away recently.</p> <p>President Rosie Rea provided a tribute to James who will be sorely missed by the entire hockey family and particularly Raphoe HC and the Umpires community. Thoughts and wishes to James's family are recorded. BP thanked RR for representing Ulster Hockey at the funeral. It was agreed that a donation be made in James's memory to the Wray families nominated charity. It was also noted that a minute's silence was observed ahead of all matches on Ulster Hockey's request.</p>
Conflict of Interest	No conflicts other than standing HI conflict – BP, IK, AR
President's Report	<p>RR provided a report ahead of the original February date.</p> <p>Update provided regards invite to Instonians Anniversary Dinner.</p> <p>AR & RR are to engage to discuss the requirements for the President as the schools finals season takes place in March. Past President Terry Templeton is available to assist with presentations and official duties if RR is not available.</p>
Minutes of last Board meeting	Proposed PK seconded AR
Matters arising	MS advised that he has met with Sarah Little regards the vacant Communications & Marketing Director role. It was agreed that NL and BP would meet with her formally with a view to making a recommendation to the March Board.

	<p>It was agreed by the Board that the agreed process for appointment of the Vice-Chair be implemented by the Past-Presidents.</p>
<p>Standing Committee Reports</p>	<p><u>Executive Manager’s report</u></p> <p>MS provided an Executive Report in February. Updates since that point were discussed:</p> <p>Rank Foundation ‘Start Here’ funding application submitted to support ‘entry level’ staff post.</p> <p>Good Relations Application submitted to The Executive Office – still awaiting the response.</p> <p>An offer to support a Development Officer has been provided by Hockey Ireland. A number of concerns need to be considered regards safeguarding existing funding – to be discussed in March.</p> <p>The Finance Committee have raised concerns over the high costs of the recent Lilleshall trip. It has been agreed that there should be a full review of the trip. MS to engage Finance & Pathways Committees to agree scope of review.</p> <p>Sponsorship secured, supporting Talent Pathways with ICW.</p> <p><u>Finance & Governance Committee</u></p> <p>Financial reports provided.</p> <p>The Finance & Governance committee made a written proposal regards amendments to the bank mandate.</p> <p>Formally proposed CR (in KH absence), seconded PK.</p> <p><u>Participation & Development Committee</u></p> <p>- Competitions Sub Committee</p> <p>IK reported back that:</p> <p>The leagues were progressing well and that Junior League Cups had commenced.</p> <p>There are continuing COVID issues with reasonable numbers of matches being postponed across all leagues. Slight reduction from early January.</p> <p>It was advised that there was an ongoing issue surrounding the postponement of matches involving Newry Olympic and Instonians. Both clubs had received a response to their respective queries from the Competitions Committee.</p> <p>A number of clubs had queried the decision to reset the points tally in the ‘B’ division matches post-split. Responses provided to all queries regards</p>

mitigating against 'meaningless matches' and that of large numbers of clubs being relegated.

MS & IK to meet to discuss rescheduling of the Kirk Cup and Ulster Shield.

It was confirmed that Anne Shiels is stepping down as ladies fixtures secretary and that the job specification is being reviewed.

- **Schools Sub Committee**

Ann Rosa recognised the excellent organisation of the Girls Senior Cup semi finals by the UH staff and in particular Nicki Bayes and Conor Savage. Royal School Armagh will play Methodist College in the final on Wednesday 9th March.

2 weeks of finals are scheduled for March.

It is recorded that there is extreme disappointment in the throwing of 2 flares onto the pitch by the spectators at the schools semi-finals. MS has discussed with Lisnagarvey HC and a communication has gone to the schools advising that this behaviour will not be tolerated going forwards.

There was extremely positive feedback on the Belfast Telegraph social media coverage of the event – recognition to Gareth Hanna from Bel Tel.

- **Umpires Sub Committee**

No update

- **Youth Sub Committee**

Advised that Amanda Morton has commenced in her role as Youth Development Officer.

Coaching & Pathways Committee

Report provided in February – no significant updates on written report.

It was noted that there had been positive meetings with HI regards the coaching pathways and discussions are ongoing.

Positive feedback was provided regards the performances from Lilleshall and the Interpros.

Ethics Welfare & Inclusion Committee

No disciplinary update

Communications, PR & Marketing Committee

As noted above, NL & BP to meet with potential Communications & Marketing Director.

Ulster Hockey Events	No report
Hockey Ireland	<p>Tickets for World Cup on sale. UH to publicise.</p> <p>CR reported back on the 4 Provinces meeting which she had attended on behalf of UH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper being developed to establish the formal relationships between HI and the Provinces. - Discussions regards each Provinces focus for development. - Issues still prevalent with the membership system – particularly in relation to collection. <p>The HI Chair is planning a meeting in Ulster with clubs – provisionally on 29th March</p>
Correspondence	<p>MS had received correspondence regards inviting the President to the Instonians Ladies anniversary dinner. Process advised to the club.</p> <p>MS had written to Northern Cricket Union to raise some concerns regards quotes attributed to the NCU CEO which were perceived as negative towards Ulster Hockey.</p> <p>The Hockey Huskey had been in receipt of fan mail from the USA. MS to respond.</p>
AOB	None
Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 15th March</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20.34</p>