



Minutes of the 145th Meeting of the Ulster Hockey Board, held on 27th September 2022 at 7.00pm at Ulster Hockey Office.

Present: Billy Pollock (BP), Peter Kelly (PK), Neal Lucas (NL), Mervyn Logan (ML), Sarah Little (SL), Tim Cockram (TC),, Gareth Herron (GH), Christine Reid (CR)

In attendance: Margaret McCormack (Vice-President), Marc Scott (MS) Chief Executive & Company Secretary

Apologies: George Wilson (GW), Adrian Murphy (AM)

Item	Comments
Chairperson's remarks	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that it was positive to see everyone together in person.</p> <p>Congratulations were noted to Marc Scott on his appointment as Chair of Volunteer Now. It was agreed that this had the potential to benefit Ulster Hockey through increased profile and influence in the voluntary sector.</p> <p>The proactive nature of action around marking the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was noted alongside the swift decision around postponement of fixtures.</p> <p>MS noted the positive engagement with Hockey Ireland in this respect and that they were one of only a small number of Irish governing bodies to issue a statement of condolence.</p> <p>BP thanked ML for his service to Ulster Hockey noting that this was his final Board meeting as Treasurer/Finance Director.</p>
Conflict of Interest	<p>Standing conflict (Hockey Ireland Board) – BP</p> <p>No other conflicts of interest recorded</p>
President's Report	<p>GW had provided a written note of his key engagements in his short tenure to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newry Olympic Annual Dinner - Ards ladies Centenary Dinner - Euronations Qualifiers Abbotstown reception - Service of Reflection for the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II
Minutes of last Board meeting	Proposed PK Seconded GH
Matters arising	Formally welcomed AM to the Board and acknowledged his unavailability for the meeting due to a family bereavement.

	<p>MS to complete Companies House/Charity Commission registration.</p> <p>GH raised issue regards the commencement of the recruitment process for the Communications Manager. It was agreed that the recruitment process being for a fixed term mitigated against the risk of a longer terms financial commitment.</p> <p>MS confirmed that all actions around the Safeguarding communications raised in June had been implemented – continued training and awareness communication.</p>
Standing Committee Reports	<p><u>Chief Executive's Report</u></p> <p>MS provided a report and highlighted the following areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recruitment process for the Hockey Development Coordinator has concluded and the post offered to and accepted by Harry Templeton. Harry commenced the role on 20th June. - Eamonn McFerran has commenced in the role as Good Relations Officer (1st September 2022). Both staff were formally welcomed to their posts. - Catherine Quinn has been appointed as Finance Consultant to support Nicki Bayes with the financial accounting processes. She will be engaged for 1 day per month commencing October 2022. This arrangement is to be reviewed after 3 months. - Sport NI has hosted a number of meetings around the proposed new funding programme and the Chief Executive continues to engage in these discussions, presenting a case for the future focus of SNI investment based on the UH strategy. - Ulster University have proposed support of £20,000 per annum for 5 years to support a Talent Officer post to be employed by Ulster Hockey and linked to the national talent & performance system. The scope of the role has been agreed by all stakeholders – Ulster Hockey, Ulster University & Hockey Ireland and a draft job description is with UU for consideration. On agreement of the job description, a business case will be provided to the Board - A new sponsorship agreement is to be finalised with Legacy Wealth management. <p><u>Operational Risks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns are apparent in the sector regards the slow progress from Sport NI in relation to the future funding programme. Current funding concludes in March 2023. Concern of sports are being articulated via the NISF. It has been articulated to SNI that this has been escalated as a risk by the UH Board. <p><u>Finance & Governance</u></p> <p>Final accounts have been approved by the Finance Committee.</p>

	<p>MS provided an overview of the 2022/23 budget and the format being used to present these monthly. This incorporates a clear breakdown of development income & expenditure.</p> <p><u>Coaching & Pathways</u></p> <p>TC provided a written report. Key area highlighted:</p> <p>There is currently a 'pathways' document in place which outlines the route for Ulster players to represent either Ireland or GBNI. A discussion was held regards how awareness of these options can be best communicated. It was agreed that these remain published on the website and that it is the responsibility of GB/England Hockey to promote as appropriate at UK School Games.</p> <p><u>Participation & Development</u></p> <p>After a successful tender process, the Sheffield Hallam University Sports Industry Research Centre in collaboration with Ulster University, has been commissioned to carry out the review of competitive hockey. A project initiation meeting was held on 20th August 2022 and a project inception plan has been provided.</p> <p><u>Communications & Marketing</u></p> <p>A recruitment process for the Communications Manager (fixed term until end March 2023). Interviews have been held on Wednesday 14 and Friday 16 September. A note of gratitude is to be recorded to Elaine Grant, Athletics NI CEO for assisting as an independent panel member.</p>
Ulster Hockey Events	No report.
Hockey Ireland	Discussions to be instigated with Hockey Ireland to drive the process of strengthening the Transgender policy. It was agreed that the current position adopted was sufficient and in line with legislation.
Correspondence	None
AOB	MMcC suggested the possibility of opening a Euro account to mitigate against fluctuating exchange rates.
Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 20th September</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20.40</p>