



Irish Hockey Umpires Association

**Annual General Meeting
held on Sunday 5 May 2013 at 11:30 am
at Taylors Three Rock, Dublin.**

Introduction

IHUA Chairman, Warren McCully (WMcC), opened the meeting and thanked everyone for his/her attendance. He welcomed IHA President, Daphne Hall and confirmed she would Chair the meeting.

In Attendance/Apologies

29 members were present and 23 apologies were received which are recorded on hard copy attached to the primary minutes.

Minutes of the Emergency General Meeting held on 15th July 2012 and Matters Arising

As the minutes of the 2012 EGM were in the hands of the attendees, it was agreed that they be taken as read. Matters arising would be dealt with under the various headings. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Niall Roche, seconded by Simon O'Connor and agreed as an accurate record by all.

Correspondence

None

Chairman's Report

Warren McCully (WMcC) said that when he took over from Chris McConkey twelve months ago he was faced with challenging times in agreeing a way forward on financing with the IHA. Catriona Hassey was co-opted from Munster to the vacancy on the Committee and Tom Goode (TG) agreed to handle both the Men's and Ladies appointments. Tom managed to fill all appointments although he faced a hard time with calendars clashing. He is on the Calendar Committee for the coming season. WMcC thanked TG for his perseverance and sterling work throughout the season.

The highlight of the season was that three of our members participated in the Olympics, Carol Metchette, (now on enforced retirement), Colin Hutchinson and Ray O'Connor.

He thanked all umpires for their commitment throughout the year, sometimes in cold and very unpleasant weather.

One piece of work that was completed is the National Umpire Development Strategy. IHUA asked for > €25,000 for development but IHA has allocated a mere €750 for development and this is totally insufficient to carry commence the Development Strategy. He mentioned that if we were asking IHA for money and clubs for match fees, we ourselves would have to contribute more, hence a proposal later in the meeting to increase our Membership fee. WMcC outlined the plans of IHUA – to invest the IHA travel budget money into development and make up the short fall for umpire expenses through match fees – this has been discussed with Mike Heskin of IHA.

IHUA/IHA Discussions

Over the year he met with Mike Heskin and his predecessor Angus Kirkland but he was sad to report that we were effectively no further forward in resolving the financial arrangements, there is a lack of money and movement from IHA and IHA have made no proposals to resolve the issue. He questioned whether or not IHA appreciated the seriousness of the situation. IHUA have done everything IHA has asked us. Asking clubs to vote for fees was like asking turkeys to vote for Christmas! Clubs had not turned up to our roadshows which was very disappointing as their feedback would have been very important to IHUA. However this is not a IHUA problem or a club problem but an IHA problem. IHUA should not engage in a fight with the clubs over this.

IHUA are not part of the IHA Constitution – IHA are the governing body and must ensure development in umpiring takes place. WMcC called for the IHUA to be strong and not to back down.

He thanked Don Cowman, who was standing down, for his long service. Don was passionate, had a strong grasp of the legal elements of the IHUA and was an important reference point for clarification. He also thanked Crozier Deane for stepping into the vacant secretary position 2 ½ years ago and for his help, advice and support since that time and wished him well for the future. He also thanked Catriona Hassey for her input this year and was disappointed she couldn't stay on the Committee.

Adoption of the Chairman's Report was proposed by Austin Brennan and seconded by David Acheson and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Honorary Secretary's Report

Crozier Deane (CD) referred to the Olympic and International appointments, the National Grading System and completion of Fitness Tests.

He apologised for criticising the IHA in front of the IHA President and Vice-President but said he had 154 incoming emails on the subject of financing, yet still no resolution. He summed up other points he made about the behavior of the IHA by saying IHUA were being treated in a very demeaning way.

The IHUA intended to repeat the very successful Seminar it held at the beginning of the season, again next year.

He advised that Gilmore Sports have agreed to sponsor a new different coloured shirt for next season and details will be released shortly.

He said player discipline is still a major problem and the administrators must take sterner action.

Adoption of the Honorary Secretary's Report was proposed by Linda Ingram, seconded by Eamonn McFerran and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

Michael O'Brien presented the audited accounts for the year. He said our own members' fees were the only real income. Disturbingly umpire numbers had dropped on the season, with 18 less this year. The knock on effect is that our income is automatically reduced. Inevitably there was a deficit and this amounted to €2,759.

Adoption of the Honorary Treasurer's Report was proposed by Don Cowman, seconded by Austin Brennan and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

National Umpire Appointments Coordinator's Report - Ladies/Men

Tom Goode apologized for his absence and the Secretary read his Report. Tom's report acknowledged the input from the Provincial Appointment Secretaries and also thanked the umpires for their help and understanding. Tom listed the long length of overseas tournament appointments, highlighting the Olympic trio of Carol, Colin and Ray. He said all the Tournament Reports were good, thus enhancing their reputations. There were FIH upgrades for Colin Hutchinson World Panel, Bruce Bale Promising Umpire List and Tara Browne Indoor FIH Grade Also, Shane O'Donnell to the new EHF umpiring initiative Umpire4Europe.

Tom also mentioned Carols' retirement from the international stage but she has taken on a role of mentor to the EHF UDP group. Tom was effusive in his praise of the work Warren had done in keeping him sane!

Adoption of the National Umpire Appointments Coordinator's Report was proposed by Sean Murtagh seconded by Gill Hohn and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Linda Ingram asked why there was no consultation with the Provincial Appointment Secretaries particularly on pairings and standard of the fixtures. WMcC advised that consultation would usually take place but it must be recognized that with only one Appointments Coordinator this year things have been very difficult; with two Coordinators next year the process should allow more time for discussion.

Election of Officers for 2013/14

The following were elected:

		<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
Chairman	Warren McCully	Simon O'Connor	Niall Roche
Honorary Secretary	Aisling Keogh	Andrew Groves	Linda Ingram
Honorary Treasurer	Michael O'Brien	Dave Kenna	Catriona Hassey

Election of Executive Committee for 2013/14

The following Committee members were elected to serve for the new season:

	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
1. Robert Johnston	Don Cowman	Simon O'Connor
2. Eamonn McFerran	Colin Hutchinson	Fiona Davitt
3. Graham Hohn	Crozier Deane	Sean Murtagh
4. Vacant		
5. Vacant		

The meeting was informed that Karen Eppel had made herself available for election but there was no proposer or seconder.

In the absence of any further nominees it was decided to leave the 4th and 5th nominations vacant. Daphne Hall expressed disappointment that Munster had not nominated one of their Members and requested the incoming Committee to coopt at least one of the vacancies from Munster to ensure all provinces are represented.

Election of Umpire Appointments Coordinator - Ladies

Gillian Johnson Proposed by Crozier Deane – Seconded by Catriona Hassey.

Election of Umpire Appointments Coordinator - Men

Tom Goode Proposed by Niall Roche – Seconded by Graham Caulwell

In each case, there being no other candidate both were deemed elected.

Membership Fees for 2013/14

It was proposed by the Honorary Treasurer, Michael O'Brien, seconded by Eamonn McFerran and agreed, with one dissenting vote, by the meeting, that membership fees for 2013/14 should be increased to €25. This followed a discussion on the amount of the percentage increase. Linda Ingram asked if we charged participants in our Development Programme. WMcC informed her that the Development Programme would be considering an additional course fee or course administration fee. Linda said in all other such cases a course levy was charged.

Appointment of Auditors

It was proposed by the Honorary Treasurer, Michael O'Brien seconded by Gill Hohn and unanimously agreed by the meeting that Crawford Tipping should continue as Auditor.

Any Other Business

David Acheson asked how many gradings had been carried out? WMcC advised that very few had been done due to the pressure on Tom handling both sets of appointments. We currently don't have a big pool of graders however WMcC advised that he is currently reviewing the whole grading structure and system ahead of the coming season. IHUA want to install training for graders and assessors but we don't have the money to do this at present. David instanced a case of a Province advising an umpire that an IHA appointment was insufficient to warrant a re-grade. WMcC said IHUA would most likely engage in the promotion of umpires from grade 2 to 1 but not below that would remain the remit of the Provinces. However, this was still to be discussed with the Provinces.

Richard Kendrick suggested that like Ulster all provincial gradings should be sent to the Umpire Coordinators, this would help in raising awareness of the umpires' progress. Richard (IHA Vice President) said that wearing his other hat, he could inform the meeting that following IHA Incorporation; IHUA would be in the new Constitution. Richard mentioned the reduction in the Sports Councils grant and spoke eloquently about the dangers of the parties (IHA / IHUA) becoming totally polarised requesting that every effort is made to progress the discussions.

Don Cowman replied that IHA were refusing to allow IHUA to charge clubs and that was the issue, this stance held by Mike Heskin at the IHUA committee meeting this morning. David Acheson suggested the IHUA pull the service and report the IHA to the Sports Council for not passing on the money they allocate to umpiring.

There being no further business the meeting closed, with Daphne Hall thanking those that attended and all IHUA members for their appreciated services during the season.

Warren McCully
IHUA Chairman

Daphne Hall
IHA President