



**Annual General Meeting held on  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 11.00 am at Taylors Three Rock Hotel**

The meeting was called to order by IHUA Chairman Warren McCully. Upon invitation, President of the Irish Hockey Association, Richard Kendrick agreed to chair the meeting. Richard Kendrick opened the meeting by thanking IHUA for the invitation to chair the meeting and acknowledged the significant commitment of all umpires in their support of Irish Hockey.

**In Attendance:**

LHUA Simon O'Connor, Gillian Johnston, Graham Hohn, Peter Agnew, Don Cowman, Alison Keogh, Crozier Deane, Tom Goode, Fiona Davitt, Gillian Garrett.  
MHUA Peter Murphy, Liz Clifford, Malcom Coombes, Julie Beamish, Zenia Howe.  
UHUA Warren McCully, Robert Johnston, Russell Donaldson, Mark Dowds.  
IHA Richard Kendrick

The quorum being in attendance, the meeting proceeded.

**Apologies:**

Adare Brady, Louise Daly, Finbarr Kelleher, Jamie Aiken, Graham Caulwell, Aisling Keogh, Rob Abbot.

**Minutes of last Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were distributed prior to the meeting to all members. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the last AGM. The records were signed by Richard Kendrick and Robert Johnston.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received in relation to the AGM.

**Chairman's Report - Warren McCully**

Good morning and thank you everyone for your attendance.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to one of our own, Richard Kendrick, President of IHA. Richard has kindly agreed to fulfil the role of Chair at our meeting today. Don't be fooled into thinking that Richard's role in hockey is solely that of President and all the demands that places upon him. Richard remains heavily involved in umpiring where is Chair of the Irish Umpires Development Working Group, which is working very closely with IHUA to ensure that umpiring within Ireland is taken to a much better place. Over the course of the last 12 months we have had very many conversations!

I would like to begin by thanking everyone on the Executive Committee for the huge work and commitment you have given over the course of the season. All meeting were well attended and this Committee goes from strength to strength; I really cannot put in



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words my gratitude for all their assistance and help over the year. Everyone works and works hard.

Tom has done tremendous work on appointments, once again, having to manage all the appointments. The absence of a Women's Appointments Co-ordinator is a poor situation to be in and therefore I live I hope that the position can be filled this year.

It's fair to say, this year, things have really started to finally slip into place. We have achieved so much this year but there is much, much more to do to put a proper functioning structure in place that sees standardization across all the provinces; everyone working to the same goals and objectives. I can also report that the relationship between ourselves and IHA has improved markedly; maintaining this relationship is important for the future of umpiring and it was great to see at a recent IHA Board Meeting that umpiring was one of the very first topics talked about. The support of Julie Beamish and Richard Kendrick as current Board Members has no doubt been a factor in the promotion of umpiring within IHA.

This year also saw the introduction of the National Umpire Pathway; a clear and defined pathway for anyone who wants to become an umpire or turn umpiring into a sporting career. The year began with an EHF Umpire Coaching Course in conjunction with the U16 & U18 inter-provincials involving attendees from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Belgium. The event was a fantastic success and event organiser, Robert Johnston, ensured it went like clock-work. I would like to extend my thanks to Robert for making the event the success it was and ensuring no-one was left behind at a bus, airport or ferry terminal no matter the hour – I know he didn't get to bed until the early hours most nights preparing for the next day. This is our first proper step into Umpire Coaching and next season will see the introduction of Umpire Coaching Courses to help support the Pathway.

An Umpire Assessors Course took place yesterday; another important facet of an Umpire Pathway. My thanks to Tom for his work for putting the course together and hopefully more courses will follow.

August will see the introduction of the Introductory Umpiring Course for all umpires entering the Pathway. Courses have been arranged in each Province and shortly the Provincial Associations will take over full responsibility for this course. The course will prepare all Clubs for the introduction of new rules from next season, requiring all clubs to supply umpires for appointment with Irish Competitions. I sincerely hope that all Provinces implement a similar rule to ensure that we further increase the umpiring pool and ease the pressure on appointments within the provinces over the course of time.

Something that has been lacking for many, many years is a proper multi-functional IT system for umpiring. Over the course of the year we secured a substantial investment from IHA to purchase a hockey umpire dedicated system. This system has been specially designed to include all the provinces and provide each umpire with their own personal portfolio. Work on this project has already started and I would like to thank IHA for their financial assistance to make it happen. I'm sure there will be teething problems as we tweek the system to fit our requirements but we will be working as best we can behind the scenes.



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After Christmas saw the first umpire development meeting with all the provinces invited to discuss one thing – umpire development – this was a highly beneficially meeting and through the Irish Umpires Development Working Group I see more meetings of this nature taking place. For me, to have everyone sitting down talking about the one thing that means so much to our future was great to see. For the record, the work of this Working Group is currently viewed as the ‘gold standard’ for other working groups in Irish Hockey.

Another development project that is currently underway is for umpires who have been invited from the provincial associations in conjunction with the EHF EuroHockey Tournament here at Three Rock Rovers at the end of next month. This project will consist of two 1 day workshops following by a weekend workshop putting their learning into practice.

I would also like to express my thanks Andrew Groves for his continued sponsorship and to all the umpires who provide their services to IHUA and Irish hockey throughout the year.

Finally, it’s great to see that the IHL Finals Day this weekend will see three of the four umpires in their mid-20’s. This shows that we do have young talent who are capable of umpiring at this level and we are prepared to promote them for their personal experience and to continually develop a higher tier of umpires. Have an enjoyable summer!

### **Honorary Secretary’s Report – Simon O’Connor**

The Committee met four times during the season (September, November, January and March) but there were many numerous other meetings and conference calls held throughout the season with IHA and representatives of the four Provincial Hockey Associations.

Thanks to all committee members on their work during the year. Each meeting was productive and a lot was achieved throughout the last season.

Congratulations to all the Umpires, Umpires Managers and Video Umpires who had EHF and FIH appointments both indoor and outdoor during 2014/15. Also, congratulations to every umpire in national competitions and interprovincial tournaments at all levels on your achievements. All the best to those with appointments over the summer.

The main items of umpiring business undertaken by the IHUA Committee since the last AGM have been:

- Unfortunate cancellation of the start of season seminar due to changes in the provincial league calendars. I am sure the incoming committee will look to reinstate this event.
- EHF Coaching Seminar in conjunction with the U16/U18 boys Interpros. Successfully organised by Robert Johnston and hosted by Craig Madden (EHF) with attendees from Wales, Scotland and Belgium. The feedback from all was very complimentary.



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- Development of the Umpiring Pathway with the IHA Umpire Working Group. Training courses are planned for later this summer ahead of the 2015/16 seasons. The pathway has been presented to all provincial associations.
- Acquisition of new Umpiring System for use within Ireland (Tex Solutions) which has been funded by the IHA. In line with this, a new IHUA umpiring website, which will roll out in due course.
- Roll out of new IHUA Logo.

On behalf of the Committee and all of our members I'd like to thank our Chairman, Warren McCully, for the time and effort that he devotes to umpiring. There has been an awful lot achieved this year and Warren has been to the forefront of these endeavors.

### **Honorary Treasurers Report - Graham Hohn**

The annual accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 were presented. With no queries from the floor, the accounts were accepted into record. There was no change to the annual subscription for the upcoming season. Graham Hohn acknowledged and thanked Crawford Tipping for his continued work as Auditor for IHUA. This was acknowledged the Chairman.

### **Men's National Umpires Coordinators' Report - Tom Goode**

A challenging season, to say the least! In the absence of a Women's Appointments Coordinator, I agreed to take on the role, in conjunction with my role as Men's Appointments Coordinator, until a volunteer could be found!! Little did I realize it would last the entire season! A priority for the coming season is to find a Women's Appointments Coordinator as I cannot continue to do both. My thanks again to all the provincial Appointments Secretaries for your help and patience.

Again this season, I have tried to give as even a spread of appointments as possible to everyone and I hope that you all enjoyed new umpiring experiences, be it with new colleagues or different locations. To those that were appointed to the various IHA tournaments & finals, many congratulations and well done on your performances. I do realise that there is also some disappointment among some of you but, unfortunately, it is not always possible to accommodate everyone.

Our umpires once again excelled on the international stage, which is a testament to the quality of umpiring in Ireland. We continuously punch above our weight and long may it continue.

For the record, the following are the EHF/FIH appointments made over the course of the last season, and also for forthcoming tournaments:



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<b>Tara Browne</b>	<b>Indoor Club Trophy (AUT) Outdoor Club Trophy (BLR)</b>
<b>Graham Caulwell</b>	<b>Indoor Club Trophy, (DEN)</b>
<b>Kris Cholewa</b>	<b>Outdoor Club Challenge IV, (POR)</b>
<b>Geoff Conn</b>	<b>EHL Round 1, (ESP) Indoor Junior Nations II, (CRO) Indoor World Cup, (GER) Nations Championships, (ENG)</b>
<b>Liz Clifford</b>	<b>Indoor Club Challenge (TUR)</b>
<b>Fiona Davitt</b>	<b>U18 Championships (ESP)</b>
<b>Russell Donaldson</b>	<b>U18 Championships (ESP)</b>
<b>Gillian Garrett</b>	<b>World League II (IRL) U18 Championships II (ITA)</b>
<b>Tom Goode</b>	<b>UM EHL Round 1, Barcelona UM Indoor Junior Nations (POL) UM Club Challenge I (SUI)</b>
<b>Colin Hutchinson</b>	<b>VU EHL Round 1, Barcelona VU EKL KO16/Final 4, Bloemendaal</b>
<b>Alison Keogh</b>	<b>Nations Championships II (CZE)</b>
<b>Carol Metchette</b>	<b>VU Champions Trophy (ARG) VU World League S/F (BEL) VU World League Final (ARG)</b>
<b>Warren McCully</b>	<b>Club Challenge III (CRO) World League 2 (USA)</b>
<b>Simon O'Connor</b>	<b>Indoor Club Challenge (NED)</b>
<b>Shane O'Donnell</b>	<b>Club Trophy (IRL)</b>

Congratulations to you all and apologies if I omitted anybody. The following FIH upgrades were also made: -

- Geoff Conn – FIH Grade 1 (Indoor)
- Fiona Davitt – FIH Grade 2
- Gillian Garrett – FIH Grade 2
- Shane O'Donnell – FIH Grade 2

Well done all and best of luck in your careers.

As always, I welcome any feedback and I am always prepared to listen to anything you have to say, be it positive or critical. Finally, to you the umpires, a big thank you for your help and co-operation, especially when called upon at the last minute to replace a colleague or to go to a different venue.



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### **Election of Officers**

<b>Chairman</b>	Warren McCully	Proposed – Tom Goode Seconded – Richard Kendrick
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Vacant	No Nominations – Incoming
Committee to resolve		
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Graham Hohn	Proposed – Warren McCully Seconded – Crozier Deane

### **Election of Executive Committee**

<b>Robert Johnston</b>	Proposed – Peter Murphy Seconded – Gillian Johnston
<b>Gillian Johnston</b>	Proposed – Tom Goode Seconded – Julie Beamish
<b>Geoff Conn</b>	Proposed – Warren McCully Seconded – Tom Goode
<b>Eamonn McFerran</b>	Proposed – Robert Johnston Seconded – Peter Murphy
<b>Peter Murphy</b>	Proposed – Warren McCully Seconded – Zenia Howe
<b>Tom Goode</b>	Withdrew

### **Election of Umpires Coordinator Ladies**

No nomination(s) - Vacant

### **Election of Umpires Coordinator Mens**

<b>Tom Goode</b>	Proposed – Gillian Johnston Seconded – Russell Donaldson
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### **To fix and agree Membership Fees**

No Change

### **Alterations to the Constitution**

Amendments to the constitution were distributed to the Members prior to the meeting. With no queries from the floor, the amendments were Proposed Simon O'Connor and Seconded Graham Hohn.

### **Appointment of Honorary Auditor**

**Crawford Tipping** Proposed – Warren McCully, Seconded – Julie Beamish



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It was noted that Crawford does not audit the accounts, but prepares a financial review. It was proposed and seconded that the constitution should be updated to note Honorary Accountant rather than Auditor.

### **General Business**

- 1) Gillian Garrett re New Rules of Hockey – when will they come into effect in Ireland? Richard Kendrick advised September in line with new season.
- 2) Peter Agnew re Will the new rules apply provincially? Yes, as they are rules of hockey
- 3) Julie Beamish: Congratulations to Warren from the IHA Executive on the hard work over the last season in bringing umpiring to the fore of discussions.
- 4) Warren McCully: Proposed Richard Kendrick as chair for the IHAUWG for the next 12 months. This proposal was accepted by the meeting. Each province is also a member of the group.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 12:22 pm by Richard Kendrick.

*Simon O'Connor*

**Simon O'Connor**

**Hon. Secretary, IHUA**

**25 April 2015**