



## **Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Pembroke Hockey Club on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 10.00 hrs**

**Present:** Chairman - Warren McCully (WM), Simon O'Connor (SOC), Jamie Aiken (JA), Eamonn McFerran (EMcF), Graham Hohn (GH), Peter Murphy (PM), Tom Goode (TG), via Skype - Tara Browne (TB)

**Apologies:** Robert Johnston (RJ), Gillian Johnson (GJ), Geoff Conn (GC)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

1. There was one amendment in relation to the minutes of the last meeting. PM clarified that the Insurance Rep had suggested that the IHUA contact Hockey Ireland. Excluding this, the minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. WMcC advised that he would upload them onto the website.

### **Matters Arising**

2. Introductory Umpires Course – Photos of standard umpire signals to be added. A business case is to be drafted looking at licencing this out to the provinces. WM was to discuss at HI Strategic Meeting however this meeting was postponed. Ongoing. **Action – WM**
3. Coaching Course – TG to continue work on this, WM to discuss with TG before Christmas, hoping to have it commence in February/March 2017. On-going. **Action – TG & WMcC**
4. IHUA Selection Structure – On-going. **Action – PM & WMcC**
5. Prepare umpire expenses proposal for submission to IHA – JA has produced a draft document detailing the inequality of payments to hockey umpires compared to other sports. On-going. **Action – JA & GH**
6. IHUA umpire recommendations for IHA re financing umpire pathway. Document has been sent to HI Board and to Irish Umpires Development Working Group. WM expressed his thanks to PM for the work done on this. Completed.
7. Tex Solutions (Assessor /Coach Feedback Application) – Completed
8. Video Software – Completed
9. Radios – An email has been sent to HI for payment, payment has yet been received. A follow up email will be sent. **Action – WMcC to contact EYHL WG for payment**
10. Membership Fees and Contributions – this will be dealt with under the Constitution. **Action – PM to submit a draft proposal to next meeting for suggested changes to Constitution.**
11. Assessors Course – WM advised that he was looking for a suitable opportunity to host another course and has contacted Catherine McManus. Some discussion followed on location and where the training was needed most, it was felt Leinster would be

appropriate. JA commented that a number of people do the course but then don't assess.  
**Action – WM to post information on the portal and the provinces to ascertain the level of interest, RJ to follow up with those who haven't assessed.**

12. Development Money – It is hoped to a development day around World League 2 in NICS. To be progressed in conjunction with HI. **Action – WMcC**
13. Paper on IHUA Umpire appointments for Irish Competitions has been finalised and sent to HI and Provinces - **Completed**
14. Selection – FIH require nominations for the Women's World League 2 in Malaysia (January 2017) and Men's World League 2 in Belfast (March 2017) – Nominations have been made - **Completed**
15. Inter-provincials policy document re umpire requirement drafted and sent to Interpro WG - **Completed** - no response received to date.
16. Number of women umpires – PM spoke to Declan Kidney in ICC Sports Department, DK will try to find a psychology student who might be interested in doing a report, no response so far. WM also mentioned it to Sue Haslam (National Development Coordinator who advised that HI were considering making an approach to Women in Sport for funding. Ongoing. **Action – PM & WM**
17. Insurance – PM has requested a copy of the insurance cover available from Munster Hockey which he is hoping to get in the next few days. WM has also asked HI for same, no reply, will follow up. PM queried what the situation is for umpires not appointed by IHUA to cup competitions? WM replied that as the club were appointing the umpire, it would be the club's responsibility. **Action – PM/WM to forward document to committee.**

### Correspondence

18. Letter from Ulster Hockey re Umpire Panel Transfers Policy – IHUA has advised Ulster Hockey that we would delay the implementation of this policy until next season.
19. FIH Rules of Hockey 2017 – the FIH has recommended this be implemented from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, agreed. It will be discussed at the mid-year EYHL review but a reminder will be sent to umpires before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. The rule book has been added to the portal already.
20. FIH Transfer of Rob Argent – we received a request from Rob Argent to transfer his nationality to Irish, no objection from IHUA or NPUA. FIH have replied stating that they will be looking at the issue of umpires changing nationality shortly so his request has been put on hold at present.
21. FIH Road to Tokyo – Alison Keogh and Geoff Conn have been selected for the Road to Tokyo umpiring panels.
22. FIH Fitness Testing – FIH have advised us of the change to the Fitness Testing, they will now use the YoYo test for umpires graded FIH Promising List and above.
23. Munster Hockey – letter advising their disappointment that not all Irish cup matches had umpires appointed. WM replied yesterday, TB sent on copy of the reply to all Committee members by email during the meeting.
24. Players Equipment - IHUA received a document in relation to player's equipment from the Irish Umpire Development Working Group, this has been sent to all clubs ahead of the introduction of the new 2107 rules.
25. Clarification has been added to the portal in relation to completion of Umpire Assessor feedback being completed.
26. Clarification has been sent to all umpires in relation to sliding tackles and going to ground.

## Finance

27. WM advised that an email had been set to the provinces to update their umpires list ahead of the subscriptions required for 2017 season. All umpires listed on a provincial umpires panels should be official members of IHUA and available for appointment.
28. Radios awaiting second year payment from Hockey Ireland.
29. Accounts – Current balance is €4300.
30. UDP – Payments for Shane O’Donnell ‘s participation discussed. €750 plus travel needs to be paid for first year. Shane has paid IHUA his €200 contribution.
31. EYHL €20 Subsistence – JA asked why this was only for EYHL, WM advised that subsistence will form part of later discussions with Hockey Ireland regarding the issue of expenses.

## Hockey Ireland Correspondence

32. Abbotstown – WM attended a meeting of the HI Strategic Plan, 4P’s and HI Board, presentation from Abbotstown CEO in relation to accessibility and bringing hockey to Abbotstown. Umpiring is considered a significant part of the Strategic Plan. HI are trying to get the provinces to bring their target objectives to HI and to fall in line with EHF and FIH objectives. HI has requested a four year plan from IHUA. **Action – WM to complete 4 year plan and circulate.**
33. Expenses on Portal – IHUA now have access to the budget information in relation to umpire expenses. IHUA hope to process expenses for EYHL through the portal from January 1<sup>st</sup> (trial to end of season and then roll out for all competitions). WM meeting with Rob Johnson and Catherine McManus in HI to discuss the above including audit requirements. WM suggested that HI should pay the expenses and the club would pay the match fee, therefore all clubs would be paying the same. TG asked if we should consider setting up an independent body if HI were reluctant to buy into this. **Action – TG will forward all late claims to WM.**

## Development

34. Meeting of the IUDWG will go ahead after Christmas to discuss the provinces umpiring pathway, coaching and assessing and grassroots in relation to young umpires (12-18 year olds) – **WM, PM, SOC and EM to prepare paper.**
35. EYHL Mid Season Briefing – 22<sup>nd</sup> January. EYHL video clips, a sports psychologist and GAA representative will all give presentation. TG will ask Ray O’Connor and Alison Keogh to present. JA suggested that the fitness test could be run first.
36. World League 2 (NICS) – it was suggested IHUA should run a session for younger umpires at WL2. WM has spoken to Sue Haslam (SH) and she will publicise through her contacts from the Young Leaders course. SH suggested a one day course would be better than a two day for that age group.

## Constitution

37. PM advised that the constitution covers the aims and objectives of the IHUA, officers and finance. PM made the following suggestions for amendments –
  - a. The wording requires us to appoint to all games, he suggested this may need to be changed in light of the lack of umpires and our inability to appoint to all cup games.

- b. If you were a member of the IHUA you should have to be a member of your local association and that membership should change to a season rather than a year running from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to 30<sup>th</sup> April. WM asked what would happen if someone was upgraded after payment date or end of season, he suggested this could be dealt with under the Upgrading Rules (i.e. pay membership before upgrade approved – this was agreed.
- c. Under officers we should add a Vice Chairperson role – either to be elected or chosen at meetings as necessary. VC would become CO when CP steps down or period is up and that the new VC would spend time on the committee before stepping up to CP.
- d. 5 Year maximum period for holding appointment.

**Action** - Any proposals for changes to the constitution should be forward before the next meeting.

### **Sponsorship**

- 38. Sponsorship – WM advised there was no further update. WM advised that he had presented our sponsorship proposal to HI at a recent meeting. HI advised they may have an opportunity to divert sponsorship to us depending on what offers they receive. TB advised that there was a sponsor who would be interested in supplying kit and providing a main sponsor. It was decided that it was not necessary for the kit to be a widely recognised brand, but that it was better to have the kit (Shirts and trousers). WM to discuss with GC and revert. **Action – WM to discuss with GC, TB to contact potential sponsor.**
- 39. Gilmour Sports – JA noted that the contract with Gilmour was now finished and asked if we should still be wearing the kit. As we presently have no other kit else it was decided to continue to wear it.

### **Umpire Grading/Selection/Fitness**

- 40. Appointments - Christine Reid and Malcolm Coombes have been appointed to World League.
- 41. Reports – All EHF/FIH reports must now be forwarded by the umpire to RJ who will put them on the portal so that both the umpire and IHUA can view.
- 42. Gail Taylor has been upgraded to Umpire Coach after Glasgow course.
- 43. Congratulations were extended to Ray O'Connor on Guust Lathouwers Memorial Trophy award at the FIH Congress in Dubai. **Action – TB to write to Ray congratulating him.**
- 44. Congratulations were extended to all umpires and umpire managers who had received recent FIH and EHF appointments.
- 45. TG advised that he has graded Simon McAllister and recommended he be upgraded to B Star Panel. WM advised that this would need to be done through the Province. However, it was agreed to invite Simon to the EYHL mid-season training. **Action – TG to invite.**
- 46. Yo-Yo Test. **Action** - TG to forward You-tube clip.

### **AOB**

- 47. Abuse from Supporters – JA advised that there had been some unacceptable abuse of an umpire by Pegasus supporters and asked if anything can be done. WM advised that this was covered under the Code of Conduct. A report was sent in by the umpire involved, the club has apologised. JA wondered if umpires are receiving abuse and not reporting it.

WM advised that this was covered in the four year plan. PM advised that he had very poor service from Weston HC. WM advised that he had also received some good reports about club interaction (Sally-Ann Fanagan - Loreto). Sally Ann has a template for build-up and match day which he will consider forwarding to the Competition Committee for distribution to clubs. **Action – WM to progress.**

48. Single Appointments to Games – EM commented that he felt appointments should be done in pairs, not a single umpire by IHUA and club for the other one, as all the pressure then falls on the IHUA appointment. JA advised his reasoning was that there would be at least one decent umpire on the match. WM commented that while he was not comfortable with the situation he understood why it was necessary. It was agreed to continue as it is due to the insufficient numbers to cover all matches.
49. Foreign based players – a query was raised in relation to foreign based players coming home and playing while on break from work/study. WM advised this would be discussed at the working group.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Date of the next meeting was not fixed – To be arranged.

WM closed by thanking everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12:50 hrs.

*Tara Browne*

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*Minutes prepared by*

**Tara Browne**

11<sup>th</sup> January 2017

## **Summary of Agreed Actions**

<b>Para Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>
2.	Introductory Umpires Course – signals to be added	<b>WM</b>
3.	Coaching Course	<b>TG &amp; WM</b>
4.	Selection Structure	<b>WM &amp; PM</b>
5.	Umpire Expenses Proposal	<b>JA &amp; GH</b>
9.	Radios – to contact EYHL WG for payment	<b>GH &amp; WMcC</b>
10.	Membership Fees – draft proposal	<b>PM</b>
11.	Assessors Course – Interest to be assessed	<b>WM &amp; RJ</b>
12.	Development Money – Course during WL2	<b>WM</b>
16.	Women Umpires – Psychology student to do report	<b>PM, WM</b>
17.	Insurance – documents to be forwarded to committee	<b>PM &amp; WM</b>
21.	2017 Rules to be added to portal and reminder sent to umpires	<b>WM</b>
32.	Four Year Plan to be completed and circulated	<b>WM</b>
33.	Expenses – all late claims to be sent to WM	<b>GH</b>
34.	Young Umpire Programme to be discussed	<b>WM, PM, SOC, EM</b>
38.	Sponsorship – update GC and contact new sponsor	<b>WM, TB</b>
43.	Letter to Ray O'Connor re award	<b>TB</b>
45.	Simon McAllister to be invited to mid-season review	<b>TG</b>
45.	You Tube Clip of Yo yo Test to be forwarded to all umpires	<b>TG</b>
47.	Match Day Template from SAF	<b>WM</b>