



## **Minutes of Committee Meeting held at ALSAA Sports Club on Sunday 23 July 2017 at 10.30am**

**Present:** Chairman - Warren McCully (WM), Jamie Aiken (JA), Eamonn McFerran (EMcF), Graham Hohn (GH), Peter Murphy (PM).

**Apologies:** Robert Johnston (RJ), Geoff Conn (GC), Tom Goode (TG), Kevin McGinley (KMcG)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

There were no previous minutes to approve as this had already been done via the conference call prior to the AGM.

### **Matters Arising**

1. **Constitution** - The meeting was advised that all Constitution amendments had now been completed and agreed as per AGM - **complete**
2. **Insurance** - GH advised that some gaps still exist with regard to non-Hockey Ireland appointments i.e. exchanges etc. WM advised that HI had previously advised that the insurance excess for umpires may be able to be reduced from €300 to €150. **ACTION: Clarification from HI re umpire excess – WM.** There then followed a discussion on insurance for our members and the need to advise everyone what exactly they are covered for and when and, more importantly, what they are not covered for and when. This should clarify the need for each umpire to arrange their own further insurance as they see fit. **ACTION: Clarification and advice document re insurance cover - GH**

3. **Suspended player guidance** – WM advised that he would be meeting with the Provinces at the start of the season and that one procedure needed to be agreed. This is work in progress. **ACTION – WM**
4. **Coaches/Managers & 3D Skills Guidance** – This has been communicated to the Provinces and has been agreed. To be added to the IHUA website as a news item for all members. **ACTION – WM**
5. **Code of Conduct / MMO** – HI have been written to regarding the ineffectiveness of the IHA Code of Conduct and the need for MMO. Also, stated within our 4 Year Plan. All EYHL umpires have been notified of recent Code of Conduct outcomes and those involved for their information and awareness - **complete**
6. **4 Year Umpiring Plan** – this has been completed and has been forwarded to the Provinces and HI. It has been added to the IHUA website but not as a news item as more relevant closer to the new season. **ACTION – WM**
7. **Introductory Umpiring Course** – this will be discussed later in the meeting under Development.
8. **EHF Coaching Course, Breda, Netherlands** – Nominations made - **complete**

### **Correspondence**

9. **EYHL WG** - Email from EYHL Working Group regarding formation of Division 2 from 2018/19 season. WM felt that more information was required regarding this but advised that we had received this for information only at this point and highlighted that we had not been asked for any input to its feasibility from an umpiring perspective. However, one point to note will be the scarcity of umpires for this proposed second division given our current lack of numbers, particularly for the women's league. We already have experienced umpires pulling out of selection for EYHL games due to travelling and/or fitness issues. GH felt that in theory it was a good idea from a national point of view. WM stated that this showed the requirement of HI to back our 4 Year Plan. PM advised that this issue had been discussed in Munster and the point of lack of umpires had been highlighted. JA said that while Division 1 was good for the national team would Division 2 add to this? PM added that the drift of players to the bigger clubs was a negative that needed addressed.
10. **Umpire Nationality Transfer** – The EHF and FIH are consulting on the nationality transfer of umpire as this may affect some of our members. Although this is to become

official, it is believed that the FIH are likely to require an umpire to hold a passport for the country they are representing to be allowed to represent that country in Inter-Nations competitions. PM stated that he had reservations about this but it was beyond our control.

## **Finance**

11. GH advised that we currently have €8,500 lodged with AIB. €300 sponsorship for the finals weekend being processed and GH keeping an eye of this. WM advised that a portion of this money was for umpire development and provincial projects. PM asked if it was possible to spend this amount on the young umpire programme to help get it off the ground in all Provinces. WM agreed. **ACTION: Follow up on sponsorship money - GH**

## **Hockey Ireland Correspondence**

12. **Hockey Ireland Calendar** - WM referred to an email chain regarding the 2017/18 calendar. The Under 21 Inter pros was scheduled for the weekend of 9 September which clashes with the IHUA seminar; this point was made to HI but with little effect. However, following input from the Provinces who were opposed to such an early date for this event means that HI have now rescheduled this inter pro. As previously stated the dates for IHUA seminars are sacrosanct and have been scheduled well in advance. After Saturday 9 September 2017, the following four dates that training will take place are as follows: Sunday 21 January 2018, Saturday 8 September 2018, Sunday 20 January 2019 and Saturday 7 September 2019. **ACTION: All dates to be put onto IHUA website and EYHL WG advised by email - WM**
13. **HI Bye-laws** - WM advised that an email has sent to HI regarding their bye-laws and their response is currently being considered.
14. **Girls U16/18 Inter-pros, Ulster** – Email received from Jennifer Patterson asking for names of umpires and UM to book hotel rooms for the travelling umpires to the Girls Under 16/18's in Ulster which is scheduled for mid-October. WM advised that he has informed Jennifer Patterson that the appointment of umpires to all interprovincial tournaments for the 2017/18 season remains unresolved at present and the matter was

presently out of our hands. It was agreed by all that this would need resolved by mid-August at the latest.

15. **Umpiring Report to HI** - WM advised that expenses for appointments of umpires to international training matches over the current summer period had now been paid. Other issues within our report remain unaddressed. However, WM advised that he had a recent lengthy meeting with CEO of HI, Jerome Pel, regarding umpiring and a number of issues were discussed. WM advised Jerome that it remains the intention of IHUA to manage the umpire expenses from the start of the 2017/18 season as per our document to them. CEO advised there is no umpiring budget within HI. The CEO was advised of our plans to charge the clubs directly (per team per match). WM has sent an email regarding the EYHL umpire budget required and asked that HI divide the current umpire expenses budget (from sponsorship money) to all clubs equally and exclude the umpire fee included within the competition entrance fee, all to help clubs with the additional cost. This would only apply to teams/matches where umpires are officially appointed. PM felt that there should be a reply from HI on this matter by the end of July. Also, we should advise the clubs in early August of this introduction of this from the start of the new season. **ACTION: Clubs to be advised WM & EMF upon HI response**
16. **IHUA Sponsorship and Clothing** - WM informed the meeting that our sponsorship document should be prepared shortly and which can be forwarded to any interested company or party (A copy was forwarded via email to all those present at the meeting). PM suggested that for any new kit or clothing, that each umpire should make a contribution when receiving such items. GH felt that trousers should also be included in any package in order to establish uniformity. This remains work in progress but good headway has been made to date.

## **Development**

17. **Introductory Umpire Course** - WM advised that he had met with Ulster Hockey to discuss the Introductory Umpire Course given the known issues. It was suggested that this course should have two elements to it. Firstly, a Rules Course & Test and secondly a Practical Ways of Umpiring. Both elements would attract a cost not much different from the piloted Introductory Umpire Cost. This would create a revenue stream for both IHUA and the Provinces.

18. Young Umpire Programme - WM further advised that Ulster had made excellent headway in respect of the Young Umpire Programme that they had money to back it.
19. **National Umpire Briefing for 2017/18** - to be prepared by Tom Goode. **ACTION – Tom Goode.**
20. **Umpire Transfers** - WM advised the meeting that clarification was required for umpires who permanently transfer from men's hockey to women's hockey and vice versa. The EYHL selection criteria also impacted on this. He showed the meeting a paper to clarify this point. There followed discussion and opposition to the paper from EMF and JA. This matter is to be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **AOB**

21. **Co-option** - WM raised the issue of co-option to the committee of the IHUA. PM stated he believed that co-option could only occur if there was a vacancy. It was felt that the constitution of the IHUA should be checked for clarification and discussed at the next meeting. **ACTION: WM & EMF**
22. EMF raised two points regarding umpire selections. Firstly, was with regards to the Ladies Umpire Co-ordinator and self-appointment to EYHL games last season. JA stated he was not aware that this was against the constitution but in hindsight could see the benefit of it. WM advised that the only non-appointment of the occurred in semi-finals and finals as per the Constitution. Secondly, with regards to the end of season EYHL play offs, EMF stated he felt that the standard of appointed umpires should be the highest available given the stakes for the teams involved. WM stated his comments had been noted and closer scrutiny would be afforded the next play offs.

### **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 1:30pm.

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*Minutes prepared by*

Eamonn McFerran

6 August 2017

