



## **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Pembroke Hockey Club, Dublin**

**Present:** Chairman - Warren McCully (WMC), Graham Hohn (GH), Peter Murphy (PM), Robert Johnston (RJ), Fiona Davitt (FD), Eamonn McFerran (EMF).

**Apologies:** Tom Goode (TG), Jamie Aiken (JA), Geoff Conn (GC).

The Chairman, WMC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. WMC welcomed Fiona Davitt to her first meeting. WMC stated that our last meeting had been on 19 November 2017 as there had been cancellations of subsequent meetings due to inclement weather and/or availability of members. Therefore, there was a lot to cover (possibly too much for one meeting) and a further meeting may be required shortly.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

1. There were no amendments in relation to the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the last meeting.

### **Matters Arising**

2. Umpire insurance advice document – Our advice document was published but needs to be further reviewed following challenge from LHA. GH has been speaking to LHA and this is a work in progress. WMC stated that this is an ‘advice’ document and not a definitive item. If the matter is highlighted and is addressed on a wider scale then it has achieved success. **ACTION: GH**
3. Insurance excess clarification with HI – this has reduced to €150 from €300 following agreement with Hockey Ireland. **Complete**
4. Fiona Davitt has agreed to join the Executive Committee for the remainder of the season. **Complete**
5. EMF advised confirmed that letters had been sent to Ais Keogh, D Kenna, G Herron, Ali Keogh and M Coombes. **Complete.**
6. Website maintenance and security – On-going due to new GDPR regulations. **ACTION WMC**
7. New kit – New kit to be ordered at the end of the season and be issued at the start of next season. On-going. **ACTION: GC, GH & WMC**
8. Crawford Tipping - GH has written to Mr Tipping and thanked him for his continued audit services. €150 given for services provided. **Complete.**
9. Umpire Development Grant – Discussions with HI on-going. **ACTION: WMC**
10. Radios – JA to conduct stock check and audit of all IHUA radios. On-going. **ACTION: JA**

### **Correspondence**

11. IHUA Constitution Issue - WMC reported that this had been dealt with via return email.

12. LHUA – new membership system. Issue was discussed. The meeting felt that this was unavoidable and the right thing for the sport going forward. RJ felt that if there is any problem then it is for the clubs to address their concerns. PM suggested that there may be a charge introduced in the future as is the case in other countries. WMC stated that both IHUA and the Provincial Umpire Associations should address any concerns by asking any questions now. He added that Brian Caruth had informed him that all money paid by umpires into the new system would be ring fenced for umpiring. Clarity is still required from HI re 'ring-fencing and cost'. PM stated that the registration fee for umpires should be relatively low, say 10 euro.
13. Irish Universities – Wanted umpires for matches versus Scottish Universities and these were supplied.
14. Kate Russell – The schoolgirls committee are seeking umpires and a UM. HI to pay umpire expenses as per IHUA rate card.
15. Tex Solutions – New GDPR regulations re website. Suggested changes and upgrades would attract a bill of 3 -4k euro so this needs addressed. It was discussed that the costs involved were probably more of a Tex Solutions cost and rather than IHUA. WMC will speak to Tex Solutions. **ACTION: WMC**
16. EYHL 2 – WMC met Inez Cooper (EYHL WG) and Linda Ingram (technical officials) in January re EYHL 2 (see email which has been previously distributed). WMC has expressed concerns to HI re umpire numbers and provincial impact. HI envisage the new league can somewhat be covered by aspiring EYHL umpires and hopefully not detract from Provincial numbers. PM also stated that there would be further work for the Umpire Co-ordinators. WMC told the meeting that the proposal is for EYHL 2 to occur 3-5 weekends before Christmas and a similar period post-Christmas so there would be more work required. This raises the question of a set expenses payment to the Co-ordinators and the meeting felt that this should be looked at going forward.

### **Finance**

17. GH stated that the next 10k euro from HI had not been received yet and WMC advised that this would be in soon having had recent contact with HI on other finance matters. Money has come from Munster and Ulster re the Umpires Course so at this time no further action is required from the Treasurer. With regards to the UDP, GH stated that a payment of €750 had been paid to EHF via HI for Shane O'Donnell for the current year.

### **Clothing / Sponsorship**

18. Agreement with ADIDAS. More information will be sent to all members for next season. Sponsorship would obviously reduce the cost to our members.
19. HI is assisting with a possible sponsor for umpires. Whilst this was welcome news, we need to continue our own efforts to find a sponsor. **ACTION: WMC - Sponsorship proposal to HI.**

## Umpire Development

20. WMC reported that he met with Brian Caruth on 13 March 2018 and talked about finance. Items cover included U4E/UDP, Umpire Coaches, Young Umpires, Irish International Development Group, EYHL training days, new radios. Some items required immediate action by this Committee.
21. The Committee discussed possible names for U4E and EHF Coaching. **ACTION WMC.**
22. National Introductory Umpires Course – so far 3 x Ulster, Cork, Limerick and possibly another in Munster in May 2018.
23. Young Umpires – reported that young umpires participated in an under-age indoor tournament at Antrim Forum, Ulster in January and had been part of the the IHUA/Ulster Umpires pilot project.
24. EY Training Day – WMC wished to record thanks for Bruce Bale and Alison Keogh for their input at the last raining day.
25. WMC reported on his meeting with LHUA at PW Hockey Club on the evening of 27 January. WMC felt this had been a productive meeting. A second meeting had been arranged but had to be postponed due to adverse weather conditions. This will be needed to further discuss ongoing issues and umpire development. Already there has been clarification of issues between LHUA and IHUA and can be further enhanced going forward.
26. WMC has met with PJ Whyte in Ulster re the Young Umpires Programme as part of our continuing work. Documents have been forwarded to PM for Munster Young Umpires Programme. There is likely to be an U16 event in Munster in July 2018. This is to be confirmed. **ACTION: PM to identify possible participants at 'young training umpire day'.**
27. WMC discussed the necessity re Provincial meetings for umpire coaches and assessors to ensure consistency regarding current thinking and interpretations. TBA at start of next season.
28. There is also suggested a Development day for provincial umpires – C Panel upwards. This will not be this season but is on the agenda for pre-Christmas 2018.
29. WMC re-addressed the issue of getting more females into umpiring. WMC has been in contact with Alison Keogh and once we get a plan together then we can use Facebook and Twitter as well as using the media (especially radio) to promote more female involvement. This needs to be targeted for the start of next season.
30. Appointments – this is particularly problematic on the ladies side due to low numbers but WMC stated his thanks to Jamie Aiken for all his good work, as well as the co-operation and understanding from the provinces.
31. FD asked on the current position of Ellie Duffy as she is not currently umpiring due to work commitments and is appointed to an Under 18 nations tournament. WMC advised that she has been asked to advise of her availability and that IHUA were trying to get her coached ahead of this tournament to fully support her as much as possible.
32. HI has advised that umpires will be required for senior internationals (M & L) and Under 21's during summer months.
33. EHF Appointments are on the website and congratulations to all those appointed. Also Kris Cholewa has been appointed to the Azlan Shah, Shane O'Donnell to a 4 nations in Dusseldorf. There is a Women's 3 nations in Cork in July.
34. Thanks are due to Peter Murphy for UM duties at the Kate Russell and congratulations to Tom Goode for being appointed UM at the Azlan Shah.

## **Coaching and Assessment**

### **National Level 2018**

35. 89 coachings and assessments have taken place so far this season
36. 50 in Men's hockey and 39 in Ladies;
37. Extremely difficult to plan watchings due to fixture timings, postponements and rearrangement of appointments;
38. Availability of coaches/assessors remains a big problem – only 2 or 3 available most weeks but often no-one available;
39. Vast majority of coaches/assessors are also umpiring every weekend;
40. Most Ladies games and half the Men's games are usually played in Leinster each week with only 1 coach/assessor available in that Province.
41. Intention was to have every EYHL Panel umpire watched this season – unfortunately 5 umpires have not had a watching yet – will try to get them covered by end of season;
42. Some umpires got extra attention due to EHF/FIH tournaments or for development purposes (M Coombes, C Reid, L Coughlan, I Strange, A Keogh, R Abbott.)

### **EHF/FIH Indoor Tournaments 2018**

43. 6 assessments of Irish Umpires were completed in Indoor tournaments since New Year
44. 4 Ladies' and 1 Men's reports received – 1 report from a Men's tournament remains outstanding;
45. Trends: in 3 of 4 Ladies' reports fitness/weight was noted as an issue; in all 5 reports whistle timing/whistle tone were noted as issues;
46. Lack of preparation was also highlighted in 2 reports which is perhaps a reflection of the small amount of Indoor hockey played in Ireland?

### **Umpire Assessors' Course**

47. Previous agreement confirmed the next course is to be held in Ulster
48. Finding a Sunday fixture in Ulster with a suitable venue for the course could prove difficult;
49. The only Sunday fixtures in Ulster are on 15th April – EYHL at either Cookstown or Ards – may be too short notice and unsure about suitable venue for course;
50. Fours definite nominations for a course (Mo Flahive, Kim Collins, Ian Strange, Lyn Morrow). It is believed Ulster have “7/8 people interested”.
51. Agreed it is not practical to run the course during EYHL Finals at Banbridge;
52. Consider organizing our own friendly with appointed umpires? NICS, Lisnagarvey, Harlequins may help accommodate a match? Suggested we should wait until beginning of next season rather than hold a course at end of this season. Agreed due to time constraints and end of season approaching.

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

53. The Training Day for early 2019 has now been agreed to be changed to 3 February 2019 at the request of HI Competitions.

### **Any Other Business**

54. EYHL clubs have been advised as to player behaviour towards ball patrol members.

- 55. Rob Argent – re transfer to Ireland. This cannot be short cutted and FIH have advised that a full process is required. Rob is fully aware of the situation.
- 56. There are outstanding Code of Conduct reports with HI and responses awaited.
- 57. HI AGM is scheduled for 19 May 2018, but our AGM date is still due to be set.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Date of the next meeting to be agreed.

WMcC closed by thanking everyone for their attendance.

*Eamonn McFerran*

---

*Minutes prepared by*

**Eamonn McFerran**

11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

### **Summary of Agreed Actions**

| <b>Para Ref</b> | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Who</b>              |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| 2.              | Umpire insurance advice document                        | <b>GH</b>               |
| 6.              | Website maintenance and security                        | <b>WMC</b>              |
| 7.              | New Kit   | <b>GC, GH &amp; WMC</b> |
| 9.              | Umpire development grant                                | <b>WMC</b>              |
| 10.             | Radio audit   | <b>JA</b>               |
| 15.             | Tex Solutions - GDPR                                    | <b>WMC</b>              |
| 19.             | Sponsorship proposal to HI                              | <b>WMC</b>              |
| 21.             | Submit names to EHF re umpires and coaches              | <b>WMC</b>              |
| 26.             | Young Umpire training day at U16 Euros, Cork, July 2018 | <b>PM</b>               |