



**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 @ 10:00am  
via Conference Call**

**Present:** Chair - Warren McCully (WMcC), Vice Chair – Rob Argent (RA), Alison Keogh (AK), Simon MacAllister (SMcA), Christine Reid (CR), Tom Goode

**Apologies:** Robert Johnston (RJ), Geoff Conn (GC), Kim Collins (KC), Peter Murphy (PM)

This meeting was conducted via conference call due to the on-going coronavirus pandemic. WMcC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance in these unprecedented times. He also acknowledged that Hockey Ireland has deemed the season as finished, as of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020. However, this period of inactivity on the field allowed the Executive Committee time to deal with some outstanding matters.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

1. The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated to all members in advance. A small amendment was made to Point 17 for accuracy. The Minutes were then accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

2. Tex Solutions has fixed the yellow/red card reporting spreadsheet. **Complete.**
3. TG has created a new folder on SLACK and members should post sponsorship photos on here. **Complete.**
4. WMcC and TG have drafted a protocol for members appointed to international tournaments or EHF development programs. To be finalised and discussed further at our next meeting. **ACTION: Finalise protocol and send to Committee prior to next meeting – TG and WMcC**
5. WMcC advised the meeting that since our last meeting, Jamie Aitken had written to RJ, stating that his recent correspondence was not reflective of the views of the Ulster Umpires Committee and apologised for the misunderstanding. TG made comment as he was not present at the last meeting. TG advised that he has sent a breakdown of all appointments over the last number of years and his was distributed to all Committee members. TG stated he had always tried to give an even spread of appointments as possible, regardless of the number of teams an individual province has in the league. He has also tried to balance the amount of traveling but this is not always possible due mainly to availability issues. He added that Leinster has never refused to release umpires and has always had a very good working relationship with the provinces. RA added that we are very aware of the challenges faced by all provinces in providing umpires and we greatly appreciate the support of all provinces in filling these appointments. Furthermore, we realise this makes the role of appointment coordinator in the provinces more challenging than in previous times. WMcC fully endorsed these comments and stated that he



had spoken with Jamie in a subsequent phone call along the same lines. The matter is now considered closed. **ACTION: RJ to write a response to Jamie Aiken.**

6. Review of Constitution – to be discussed under Agenda Item 5.
7. Subscriptions and EYHL monies received. **Complete.**
8. IHUA clothing – to be discussed under Agenda Item 8.
9. New clothing order – to be discussed under Agenda Item 8.
10. Fixture concern have been raised with HI Competitions through correspondence to HI calendar meeting. **Complete.**
11. Document to Committee members re insurance – WMcC advised that he had been unable to progress this due to other commitments but will do so prior to the next meeting as IHUA need to have a clear path on this issue, prior to the AGM. On-going. **ACTION: WMcC and CR to provide a discussion document for the next meeting.**

#### **Correspondence**

12. Hockey Ireland had written to advise that the date of their AGM is 16 May 2020. Also, this was prior to the coronavirus outbreak and therefore may not proceed. Nominations are due no later than 23 April 2020. Committee to await further correspondence from HI.
13. One provincial report received from Connacht Umpires. “Since our development officer was appointed it has greatly aided what we can now do. We have more opportunities to provide more one to one coaching, more briefings with clubs, young umpires being identified, more online presence to promote officiating. Our development officer is working closely with HI to develop a presentation for schools. Ellie Duffy is on the UDP.” WMcC thanked Connacht for their report and their development work. [DN – a report from LHUA was received shortly after this meeting.] **ACTION: RJ to seek reports from the outstanding provinces for next meeting.**

#### **IHUA Constitution**

14. WMcC advised that a scheduled meeting with Dwyne Hill (Hockey Ireland) was postponed due a family emergency but he is going to seek a conference call with him this week. In the meantime we need to now start putting the Constitution together in accordance with the comments received. WMcC can pass on any relevant information once this meeting has taken place. **ACTION: PM to provide a draft Constitution to the next meeting for discussion.**

#### **Hockey Ireland Meetings**

15. WMcC advised the meeting that the meeting at Ulster Hockey Offices with Dwyne Hill, as above, was postponed.



16. WMcC advised that he had a subsequent meeting with Sue Haslam and Ruth Montgomery in Belfast about the NUAC and other umpire development matters. Sue was able to provide him with what she knew of the HI Registration System but her knowledge was generally third hand. **ACTION: WMcC to speak with Dwyne Hill via conference call.**

## Finance

17. WMcC advised that we have purchased a laptop for IHUA business and thanked SMcA for transferring monies.
18. SMcA provided an update on the funds held in our Euro and Sterling accounts.
19. SMcA advised that EYHL expenses payments were made to members in January.
20. SMcA also provided an update on the current EYHL expenditure. WMcC advised that members have been asked to fully update their expenses so we can finalise our figures for this season. Once the figures were finalised then we can assess whether or not we need to obtain any more funds from the HI, but this was unlikely based on present figures. Monies for new radios need to be catered for, as they are a necessity.
21. SMcA reported that all subscriptions have now been paid.
22. Clothing monies – WMcC stated he wanted all outstanding monies collected in for the first and second batch orders, as a third batch was currently in progress. **ACTION: WMcC to contact those (7 members) with monies still to pay. ACTION: GC to provide a list for third batch to SMcA so that any payments can be cross-referenced.**
23. WMcC advised that there is outstanding monies from provincial NUAC to be collected in.
24. A discussion took place in relation to two travel claims recently submitted. Having heard everyone's views it was decided that both parties had not done enough in their prior communication and subsequent travel to warrant their full claim being paid. It was therefore decided to pay both members half of their claim and ask that better efforts are made in future and avoid a repeat. It was also agreed to make further additions to the claims for travel and subsistence: (1) Members must contact each other no later than three days PRIOR to their match, i.e. for a Saturday match – contact must be made no later than the Wednesday; (2) If any member is travelling on their OWN for any match out of province, they MUST inform and get approval for same from their respective Appointment Co-ordinator (as they have budgets to manage.) If approval is not sought or given, then their expense claim is likely not to be paid. **ACTION: RA to update travel and subsistence guidance. ACTION: SMcA to contact members involved and inform them of the decision taken.**
25. Tex Solutions was paid £190 for requested system enhancements: member login, administration login and payment of expenses.



### **Sponsorship & Clothing**

26. As above, a third batch of clothing is on order.

### **Development**

27. WMcC expressed his thanks to RA & AK for all the time and effort they have put in to organising the mid-season training day which had to be cancelled. It was agreed that this work would not be lost and it was ready to be used for the start of season seminar.

28. WMcC advised that he spoke to HI Competitions about the training days for next season but due to the postponement of the Olympics and uncertainty about the international calendar, this was delaying the HI calendar. Conversations remain on-going but we have dates in mind.

29. WMcC advised that radios remain a key objective, especially for the new season. We must have the radios here before the start of the new provincial season. WMcC advised that work has been going on in the background led by George Redpath and Bruce Bale. He thanked them for their work and hoped this would be progressed in the next few weeks. It is also important to understand the dynamics of the provincial and national usage of the radios and therefore he believes it should be necessary to share the overall cost along with members themselves.

30. RJ advised, via email, that he has advised LHUA of the possible upgrade of a member. Agreed it was for LHUA to progress the assessment information provided.

31. RJ advised, via email, that he had 24 assessments/coachings lined up for February 2020 of which only nine actually took place. March was completely wiped out but Assessor/Coach availability was poor anyway. No-one available on 7th March and no more than 2 available on any weekend throughout all of March even if matches had gone ahead.

32. WMcC advised that the elite umpire development programme was just beginning to really take shape when the season ended abruptly however a number of coaching sessions had been conducted – a lot of which were highly encouraging. WMcC advised that HI has been asked to title the program as a development program when tweeting any related umpiring items.

33. TG advised that a Leinster NUAC course on 4<sup>th</sup> April has had to be postponed due to the coronavirus restrictions.

### **Grading, Selection and Fitness**

34. No grading or selection issues reported.

35. EYHL fitness testing cancelled due to coronavirus



### **Any Other Business**

36. Bad Weather Policy was discussed given the number of weather warnings in recent weeks and matches postponed or abandoned. WMcC also advised that he had written to HI Competitions regarding the late postponement of a match which meant an umpire had to spend the day in Dublin (as per travel requirements) waiting on their colleague to finish their match. It was agreed that matches which have two 'local teams' and two 'local umpires' would be acceptable under an amber warning but not for any other scenario due to the travel requirements of our members. It was agreed that there should be no hockey or umpires travelling under a red warning. CR also asked if the fixtures could take more cognisance of teams and umpires travelling during the months of January and February. **ACTION: RJ to write to HI Competitions.**
37. In light of the recent cancellation of the Olympics which is being re-scheduled for Summer 2021, it was agreed to write to HI Competitions to ask that they urgently review their current procedures for postponing matches for the absence of international players. It was felt that postponements for one player, even one coach being absence of international reasons, was not sustainable for the completion of fixtures with umpires. **ACTION: WMcC to prepare wording for RJ to send.**
38. WMcC advised the meeting of two Code of Conduct matters currently with Hockey Ireland and he provided brief details of each incident.
39. RJ, raised via email, has started getting emails addressed to secretary@irishhua.com from MTAs & Judges asking him to adjust their availability on the Portal or saying they are no longer attached to a certain club. RJ has asked if these be redirected automatically to Linda Ingram. WMcC advised that he will look into this further prior to the next meeting and may need to discuss with Tex Solutions. **ACTION: WMcC to try and resolve the issue.**
40. AGM date was discussed but agreed to wait until our next meeting when we know more about the current medical advice and government restrictions re coronavirus. However, given the present situation which is likely to be extended for a number of weeks, a suitable date this season is unlikely.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 10:00am** via conference call. There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:55 am.

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*Minutes prepared by Warren McCully*

**On behalf of Robert Johnston, IHUA Hon Secretary**

31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

## Summary of Agreed Actions

Para Ref	Action	Who
4.	Finalise member protocol re tournaments etc. and send to Committee prior to next meeting	<b>W McCully &amp; T Goode</b>
5.	RJ to write a response to Jamie Aiken	<b>R Johnston</b>
11.	Provide an insurance discussion document for the next meeting	<b>W McCully &amp; C Reid</b>
13.	Seek outstanding provincial reports for next meeting	<b>R Johnston</b>
14.	Provide a draft Constitution for next meeting	<b>P Murphy</b>
16.	Speak with Dwyne Hill re HI Registration System	<b>W McCully</b>
22.	Contact members with outstanding clothing payments for 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> batch ordered	<b>W McCully</b>
22.	Provide a list for 3 <sup>rd</sup> batch to SMcA so any payments can be cross-referenced	<b>G Conn</b>
24.	Update travel and subsistence guidance document with agreed actions	<b>R Argent</b>
24.	Contact members re expenses claim and advise of decision taken	<b>S MacAllister</b>
36.	Write to HI Competitions re bad weather policy and our concerns re weather warnings	<b>R Johnston</b>
37.	Draft wording to HI Competitions re urgent approach to postponement of fixtures and send to RJ	<b>W McCully and R Johnston</b>
39.	Resolve emails re-directions on system	<b>W McCully</b>