



**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 @ 8:00pm  
via Conference Call**

**Present:** Chair - Warren McCully (WMcC), Rob Argent (RA), Alison Keogh (AK), Peter Murphy (PM), Christine Reid (CR), Simon MacAllister (SMcA), Geoff Conn (GC), Robert Johnston (RJ).

**Apologies:** Tom Goode (TG), Kim Collins (KC).

The 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.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

1. The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated to all members in advance, were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

2. A response is awaited from Jerome Pels on the paper covering a protocol for appointments to international tournaments or EHF development programs. On-going. **ACTION: WMcC**
3. The paper covering travel and subsistence guidance for umpires is now finalised. Action closed.
4. Bad Weather Procedure proposal sent to Hockey Ireland and revised wording agreed by Competitions Committee regarding weather warnings.
5. Revised paper on urinating, sent to Executive Committee members prior to the meeting, was agreed for publication.
6. Information pack to be delivered to Sedgwick. On-going due to Covid-19. **ACTION: GC**
7. It was agreed to revisit the misconduct issues discussed at the last meeting prior to the start of next season whenever that may be. **ACTION: All**
8. SMcA confirmed outstanding money has been paid by the last remaining umpire in default.
9. Umpire Coordinators paper for Hockey Ireland. On-going. **ACTION: PM, RA & WMcC**
10. Request for lessons learnt from recent Hockey Ireland Disciplinary processes. Await response. **ACTION: WMcC**
11. No further engagement nor request for assistance from Hockey Ireland in respect of Covid-19 restrictions or regulations. WMcC included Cricket Ireland umpire advice and also NZ Hockey have excellent guidelines for umpires which Hockey Ireland may take cognizance of. AK mentioned the requirement for advice and guidance to umpires on coughing and spitting also the need for travel advice to umpires. WMcC also noted required for a Covid Officer at every club otherwise game cannot proceed. Practical issues around changing rooms and food after



the game also need to be considered. All agreed we must have input to Hockey Ireland Covid guidance before it is issued nationally so issues for umpires are covered. PM raised the question of friendlies (and interpro training sessions) and whether umpires can be appointed without appropriate HI guidance and controls in place. Our advice to umpires must be that no umpire should umpire any match until HI guidance is in place and appropriate controls are present at the match otherwise insurance may be invalid. RA suggested we do not recommend umpires umpiring at friendlies until HI guidance is issued. **ACTION: WMcC to speak to Hockey Ireland**

12. All other action points were closed or are covered later in these minutes.

### Correspondence

13. Request from FIH for latest fitness test results of EHF & FIH umpires.

14. Notification of change of date of Hockey Ireland AGM which will now be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020 at 11:30am at a venue to be agreed. Includes request for nominations to the Board of Hockey Ireland.

15. Confirmation of draft Hockey Ireland Competitions Calendar for 2020/21. It presents problems for IHUA on both scheduled Umpire Training Day dates on 5/9/20 & 21/2/21 when matches are planned. Calendar includes details of new u16/u18 Girls & Boys interpros dates with games scheduled for Thursday and Friday afternoons which may lead to umpire availability issues.

16. Update from Strategic Director of Hockey Ireland, Lisa Jacob, explaining they have not yet made a final decision on the new membership system.

17. Confirmation from European Hockey Federation (EHF) of appointments to European Indoor Tournaments in 2021 (see 34. later.)

18. Comprehensive response from David Lane, Director, Tex Solutions, concerning the future sustainability of the company and his plans for GDPR compliance product upgrades.

19. RJ reported a raft of resignations on the IHUA Portal in recent days but they are mostly Technical Officials declaring their unavailability for next season. All have been passed to Linda Ingram (HI Technical Appointments Coordinator) for her information and action.

### IHUA Constitution

20. The updated version of the new IHUA Constitution, including full details of feedback received from Provinces, was distributed to all Committee members and discussed.

21. WMcC believes latest version covers all the issues raised and discussed in previous meetings and via correspondence. AK queried text of "and associated Awards" on page 2 which may require clarification for new umpires. WMcC explained change to promotion process for A Panel



in future to take more regard of the level of hockey they are being graded at. All agreed to remove the word “Award” to avoid ambiguity and confusion.

22. There being no further changes the revised Constitution was unanimously confirmed by the Executive Committee *mutatis mutandis*. RA thanked PM and WMcC for their work in producing the final document.

### **IHUA Annual General Meeting**

23. Agreed to hold AGM on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at a time and venue to be decided bearing in mind prevailing Government advice on social distancing and travel. Ann Rose (incoming Hockey Ireland President) will be asked to chair the AGM. **ACTION: RJ**
24. PM proposed holding AGM via Zoom video conference call rather than asking all umpires to travel and congregate at a single venue. All reports and papers for AGM can be sent out in advance. RA mentioned on-line voting app and how that might work. Will try to replicate LHUA logistics. A short discussion on how the AGM will be organised.
25. On behalf of all the Committee members, RJ thanked WMcC for his extended period as Chairman; for all his immense time and efforts over many, many years on behalf of IHUA in trying to improve umpiring standards and processes for the benefit of all umpires, players and officials in Irish Hockey. WMcC thanked all the Committee members for their support and efforts over the past number of years.

### **Hockey Ireland Meetings**

26. No meetings held.

### **Finance**

27. SMcA to prepare accounts for next week; Crawford Tipping to audit. **ACTION: SMcA**
28. Connaght confirmed bank account details for their radio order; other Provinces yet to reply.
29. Hockey Ireland Treasurer, Keith Morrow, has agreed that excess EYHL funds (€2700) from 2019/20 can be reinvested in the order for radios. WMcC confirmed 142 radios have been ordered. All Provinces have been contacted and are content with their orders. Radios should be delivered to each Province within the next 2 weeks. WMcC thanked George Redpath and Bruce Bale for their help and assistance in specifying, ordering and preparing the radio order.

### **Development**

30. Umpire Management and Appointing System – WMcC produced document on Tex Solutions and comprehensive response from David Lane (Tex Solutions.) A further paper produced by RA on WhosTheUmpire plus Hockey Ireland’s option for development of a new system by their managed service provider was also discussed.

31. A long discussion about the pros and cons of each option followed. After a considerable debate it was agreed the safest and least risky route is to maintain the status quo by staying with Tex Solutions in the short term. Important to understand the new releases of Tex Solutions' software especially as it transpires we are nine versions behind his latest release. The uncertainty about hugely increasing costs of changing to WTU was a major concern and the lack of detail in switching to HI's provider (who currently have no viable umpiring appointments/management system) was discarded at this juncture as it represents the most risk in the short term.
32. Timing of Umpire Training & Development Day requires further thought. Will be done by Zoom perhaps using pre-recorded video and briefing material. Agreed to have it ready for 5<sup>th</sup> September then follow-up with Q&A session on 12<sup>th</sup> September. AK volunteered to assist.
33. Agreed there will be no fitness testing at the Training Day. This will all be conducted at Provincial level. National fitness testing will resume in February 2021 subject to Covid restrictions.

#### Grading and Selection

34. The following EHF appointments for Indoor club tournaments in 2021 have been confirmed:
  - Ellie Duffy - appointed as national umpire  
22-24/1/21  
Indoor Women's EuroHockey Indoor Junior Championship II @ Sveti Ivan Zelina (CRO)
  - Rob Abbott - appointed as EHF (Neutral) Appointed Umpire  
12-14/2/2021  
Indoor Men's EuroHockey Indoor Club Cup @ Alanya (TUR)
  - Colm Kavanagh - appointed as national umpire  
19-21/2/21  
Indoor Men's EuroHockey Indoor Club Trophy @ Almere (NED)
  - Liz Clifford - appointed as national umpire  
19-21/2/21  
Indoor Women's EuroHockey Indoor Club Trophy @ Siauliai (LTU)
  - Tom Goode - appointed as Umpire Manager  
19-21/2/21  
Indoor Women's EuroHockey Indoor Club Trophy @ Siauliai (LTU)
35. U16/u18 Boys and Girls interpros to be used as development opportunity for young umpires but timing and logistics of those tournaments due to Covid changes may prove challenging. To be addressed by incoming Committee. **ACTION: All to respond to WMcC with comments**



**Any Other Business**

36. Nil.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 8:00pm** via conference call to make final preparations for the AGM.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:20pm.

---

*Minutes prepared by Robert Johnston*

**IHUA Hon Secretary**

29<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Summary of Agreed Actions

Para Ref	Action	Who
2.	Finalise member protocol re tournaments etc.	Warren McCully
6.	Information to be sent to Sedgwick	Geoff Conn
7.	Revisit misconduct issues prior to start of new season	All Committee Members
9.	Costings for Umpire Appointments Coordinators' paper for Hockey Ireland	Warren McCully, Simon MacAllister & Peter Murphy
10.	Write to HI seeking explanation and lessons learnt from Disciplinary process	Warren McCully
11.	Speak to HI regarding Covid regulations and 'Return to Play' protocols	Warren McCully
23.	Speak to Ann Rosa (incoming HI President) re IHUA AGM	Robert Johnston
27.	Prepare accounts for submission to Crawford Tipping	Simon MacAllister
35.	Respond re logistics of, and umpires appointments to, u16/u18 interpro tournaments	All Committee Members