



Notes from LHA Forum Meeting – 12th February 2019

Venue: Three Rock Rovers HC

Attendance per sign in sheet: Sorcha Cunningham (Genesis), Lisa Coulter, Helen Markey (Suttonians), Ciara Maleady (Corinthians), John Dooley (Navan), Mark Stewart (Rathgar), Mo Smyth (Botanic), Derek Squires, Angharad Griffiths (Three Rock Rovers), Anita Patterson (Portrane), Trevor Watkins (Monkstown), Barbara O'Malley (Glenanne), Justine Collins (Carlow), Paul O'Grady (YMCA), Carol Motyer (Corinthian), Robert Morris (Kilkenny), Bronwyn O'Donnell (Loreto), Kieran Dempsey (Dublin North), Marty Burke, Tara Fleming (UCD LHC), Jonathan Cole, Paul Cronin (Avoca), Klaas Jan de Vries, Mark Redmond (Wicklow), Emmet Hutchin (Weston), Kevin Corcoran (Railway Union), Greg Arrowsmith (DUHC), Beth Fortune (Genesis) Catherine McManus (Ladies Cttee), Ann Ronan, Mandy Hollway, Amy Armstrong, Sarah O'Connor, David McNerney (Board) Claire Kelly (Executive Officer)

Item One; Board Roles

Presentation by Ann Ronan on Board Roles and explaining the proposals being brought to the AGM. Of note increasing the number of Board roles currently vacant. She explained the various amendment proposals being considered for the AGM in April and asked for feedback from clubs and for them to forward names of anyone who might be interested in any of the roles.

Item Two; FIH Rules

Ann Ronan explained to the meeting that a number of rule changes have been introduced by the FIH which will be applicable in Ireland from 01st August. Of note is the timing change from 2 x 35 minutes to 4 x 15 minutes. The Board has spoken to Hockey Ireland about the impact these will have at grassroots level, but as they are rule changes rather than tournament regulations (like existing EYHL) there is no option but to adopt these into the game at local level. The new rules will not apply to the Junior (adult) Inter-Regionals in May but will apply to all competition for the new season. Full guidelines are expected to come out will possible road shows from August (pre-season). It was noted that the LHUA are currently outside the direct remit of the LHA (similar situation at Irish level between the IHUA and Hockey Ireland).

Item Three: Hon Life Members

The meeting was advised that a new sub-committee chaired by John Flannery had been established to review and recommend the awarding of Hon Life Members for the Leinster Hockey Association and by extension to Hockey Ireland. Clubs were asked to submit nomination (with a brief detail) to the Executive Officer.

Item Four: Loan application process

Amy Armstrong advised that club may be asked to vote at the AGM (April) on pitch loan applications. A number of applications are with the Grounds Committee at present. Clubs were advised that if they were considering pitch development in 2020 and were intending on applying for a pitch loan, they would need to get their expressions of interest into the Grounds Committee by July.

The meeting was also advised that it is possible that there might be a new round of [Dept of Sport] Sports Capital Grants later this year and interested clubs were urged to start preparing and planning in anticipation of same.

Item Five: Hockey Ireland Go Membership Presentation

Dwyne Hill from Hockey Ireland gave a presentation on the new Membership System which is being rolled out to all provinces. Leinster clubs will be required to upload all their members onto the system by mid-March 2019 (via excel documents).

- Confirmed that there will be no fee per member in the 2019-20 season
- Concern expressed in respect of GDPR rules and regulations. Dwyne assured the meeting that Hockey Ireland had consulted a number of experts in the field. If clubs had particular concerns they could contact him directly
- Everyone who plays hockey in Ireland is, by default, a member of both their province and Hockey Ireland and they must sign up or they cannot play hockey
- Initial focus will be on updating the system with club members. School numbers/membership will be phased in once the club membership information has been captured
- Insurance will be included in the membership fee. No further information regarding insurance available at the meeting but Dwyne advised that he will follow up. He advised that Insurance will be an opt in/opt out and clubs will need to do a comparison on behalf of their members.
- Setting of (Hockey Ireland) fees cannot be done until they are aware of the actual membership numbers in the sport but Dwyne did confirm that the juvenile fee will be €1.00 per member. Confirmation sought that once fees were introduced that they would be ring-fenced and that there would be a commitment from Hockey Ireland regarding any future increases.
- Decision yet to be made about how fees will be collected from members with a 50/50 split between fees collected directly from individual members or via clubs
- Requirement from Hockey Ireland to produce and circulate a tool kit & guidelines regarding
 - GDPR compliance
 - Data Collection & Sharing
 - Data upload
- Concern about Hockey Ireland using the system to over-communicate with members. This will need to be properly managed – Dwyne Hill to take back to Hockey Ireland
- Information will be sent to the LHA within one week for distribution to clubs

**Note LHA fees are not affected by the Hockey Ireland Go Membership system.*

Item Six: AGM

The AGM is scheduled for 10th April. Clubs were advised that proposals for Bye Law changes/nominations etc. must be received within seven days of the notification.

AOB

- Dublin University HC intend bringing a proposal to the LHA AGM regarding College fixtures
- Clubs happy with new website in particular mobile responsiveness.
- Thanks to David and Vanessa for their work on the online match card system
- Plea from the Fixtures Committees that Clubs abide by their decisions in respect of re-fixes. With the volume of matches, not abiding by these decisions can have serious knock on effects.
- Clubs were advised that a notice will be distributed shortly to clubs regarding nominations for Junior (adult) Men's/Ladies inter-provincial panels and junior age group development.

The meeting ended.