

## MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF MASTERS HOCKEY November 2012 - Kuala Lumpur

Present:

BRIGGS, Sue - IMHA Administration Manager and Chair, Australian Masters Hockey

CHILD, Peter - President WGMA

FAIRWEATHER, Kelly - CEO FIH

NEGRE, Leandro - President FIH

PEEBLES, David - Immediate past IMHA EB Member

REA, Ben - President IMHA

READ, Ken - Chairman FIH Competitions Committee

President FIH opened by saying that it was one of his objectives for the next four years to have the Masters Hockey under one body and with stronger affiliation to the FIH. This was reinforced by his presentation to the Congress on re-election clearly outlining this goal.

Peter Child took the opportunity to state that the two organisations had different cultures and it was their intent to keep the status quo ie 2 bodies but with a link to the FIH. They had taken some time to build up this identity and it worked well. Essentially the age and financial differences meant that amalgamation would bring a different set of cultures and requirements.

Ken Read replied that dealing with 2 bodies duplicated resources and communication lines, and blurred the view of NAs with respect to Masters, which seemed to be inhibiting its growth, particularly within major European countries. FIH wants all Masters bodies to be affiliated with their NAs.

Kelly responded by saying that this was diluting the overall hockey brand and it was not clear how the FIH and the Masters movement were linked. For example the recent World Cups were organized by two bodies with no coherent marketing strategy and the association with the FIH was not apparent. The other important issue was to have the opportunity for the FIH to tap into the expertise and the Masters network. This could be achieved by closer links in NAs, CFs and also at the FIH level.

Possible structures were put on the table and discussed. The one that seemed to have common concurrence, with the exception of WGMA, would be a governing Board supporting marketing, administrative and general board functions, with sub committees underneath supporting various age groups. In this way it is not necessary to have all groups play at the same tournament but events could be segmented into age groups. WGMA would be able to hold independent events for its age group without loss of profile.

FIH would deal with the Board and then the Board would involve the sub committees. The Board could either be separately incorporated or be a committee of FIH. A member of the Board could be offered a position on the FIH Competitions Committee.

David and Sue expressed their support for a dialogue over the future structure and were happy to assist to move this forward.

It was agreed that this needed further discussion and thought and that all parties would undertake to move this debate forward over the next six months and circulate ideas and proposals by email, with a meeting to be set up in the summer next year.

Post Script:

This meeting was further discussed at the Champions Trophy (Negre, Read, Peebles) and WL1 Suva (Negre, Peebles). As Peebles is already seconded to an IMHA subcommittee seeking to explore a merger, FIH is happy for Peebles to represent common interests expressed in this file note on its (FIH) behalf. FIH reiterated its strong preference for a merger rather than a continuation of the existing separation, but close coordination, of IMHA and WGMA.

FIH is looking for this merger to be completed so that common marketing can be done, in conjunction with FIH, on all aspects of the 2014 World Cup, including sponsorship.