



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 21st August 2012

Venue: Polo Sports Club Canterbury, England

Time: 5.30pm

1: Official Welcome

Mr Ben Rea, President welcomed Delegates and Observers to the AGM of the first FIH sanctioned IMHA World Cup. The event was well under way with some fine hockey and convivial social events. The IMHA welcomed new members such as Spain and South Africa. Over the past year the IMHA had developed increasingly closer relationships with both FIH and the WGMA.

2: Apologies

Neil Greene, Kanan Pakrisamy

3: Identification of Voting Delegates

Australia:	David Peebles;
New Zealand:	Graham Jackson;
Ireland:	Andy Nye;
Scotland:	Stephen Springthorpe;
England:	David Gill;
Italy:	Franco Mellis;
Germany:	Dirk Wellen;
Wales:	Barry Dunn.

Non Voting Attendees

Australia:	Carol Sheridan & Sue Briggs;
Ireland:	Jamie Millar & Alison Pigot;
Scotland:	Glenn Paton.
Wales:	Nigel Stephens;
South Africa:	Charlene Fourie, Elvira Ryan, Debbie Gates, Debbie Jordaan, Greg Darke & Nic Wides;

IMHA Executive

President:	Ben Rea;
Technical Officer:	Peri Buckley;
VP Europe:	John Stuart;
Treasurer:	David Peebles;
Minutes Recorded by:	David Peebles.

4: Minutes of Previous AGM (Singapore November 2011)

These minutes were read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
Proposed: New Zealand. Secoded: Australia.

5: Reports

Administration Report:

A paper report was not presented but Mr Rea discussed the relationships which had been developed with the WGMA and FIH at meetings held in Lausanne and London at the pre-Olympic tournament, as

well as a specific meeting held in May. It is the aim of both WGMA and IMHA to harmonise tournament regulations, technical documents, constitutions, event manuals and codes of practice. Exceptions from FIH Rules and Regulations would be dealt with as appendices and would not be disputed by FIH unless of critical importance to FIH.

As an example, WGMA has not adopted the 18 player rule, but as this rule is now sanctioned by FIH, it automatically becomes a WGMA rule. Similarly, should FIH adopt a drinks break rule following medical committee recommendations, it could be expected that IMHA ought to adopt a similar rule appropriately adjusted for Masters age groups.

FIH would like to see WGMA/IMHA merge, and this is the subject of discussions later.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr David Peebles presented his report and a copy was forwarded to Delegates. It showed that IMHA had net assets of nearly €6000 after collection of fees at the meeting with no financial liabilities. Expenses were predicted for the coming year with regard to costs associated with IMHA attendance at the FIH Congress in Malaysia and those relating to a website upgrade.

The WGMA were in the process of incorporating in the Netherlands and it was recommended that the IMHA should follow this process as a matter of urgency. WGMA Club member Alliance had recently successfully concluded such incorporation and the documentation had been made available to the IMHA. It was confirmed after the meeting that the IMHA did not necessarily have to follow the WGMA example of registering in the Netherlands.

6: Future Direction of IMHA

At meetings with FIH, it had been made clear to IMHA Executive Officers that FIH ultimately wished to deal with only one Masters organisation and had indicated that an amalgamation of the IMHA and WGMA should take place around the time of the 2014 World Cup.

The WGMA President had interpreted these discussions differently and had not established any formal process at the WGMA AGM, although they had agreed to discussions of mutual benefit.

Both associations might accept a Board of Directors, appointed with responsibilities for administration, finance, policy, regulations, strategy, legal responsibilities, sponsorship, FIH and National Association relationships etc. Under this, committees responsible for various age groups, could be established allowing for different competitions to be held at different venues. Thus WGMA could continue to run as a committee responsible for over 60s, with other age groups running their own events.

European and Asian standalone events could continue with restrictions only applying where the size of the event would be too large for one venue. IMHA would continue to allow entrance to all events to all members as a position of principle. The IMHA preference is for 'Open' tournaments whereas the WGMA only allows European teams to enter the European Championships or Asian teams to enter the Asian Championships for example.

Delegates supported the principle of one overall Master's body. Delegates agreed that IMHA would establish a working committee to investigate a merger with WGMA. Initially this would be through a process of harmonising documentation and structures. Liaison with WGMA would continue to seek mutually beneficial processes which could ultimately lead to a merger. Mr. Ben Rea and Mr. David Peebles were appointed to this sub-committee.

It was then agreed, following discussion that Ireland would host the 2013 European Championship in August. An alternate date would be sought if so desired by participants. An Asian event would also be planned for 2013, although this would be delegated to the VP Asia who was not in attendance.

The FIH had made known its wish that it was keen that the IMHA and WGMA should hold their World Cups in the Netherlands at the same time as the FIH World Cup in the Hague. As the Dutch were not IMHA members, this created a constitutional problem for IMHA Officials. It was the strong view that the Netherlands should not be awarded the 2014 IMHA World Cup if they could not provide assurance that they would demonstrate an ongoing commitment to participate in future IMHA tournaments. To this extent, after much discussion, Delegates agreed that the Executive should call for tenders/bids for the hosting of the 2014 World Cup based on guidelines provided by the Executive. The Netherlands

would only be invited to bid to be the hosts of the 2014 IMHA World Cup, and although there was no wish to go against FIH wishes, the Netherlands would only be successful in their bid if they could convince IMHA Officers that they could logistically host the event, agree to immediate membership of IMHA, and demonstrate their commitment to IMHA by participating in the 2013 European Championships.

The 2015 Asian and European Cups would be held following due IMHA bidding process.

It was unlikely that any South American country could host the IMHA World Cup alongside the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil. Australia offered to host both the IMHA and WGMA 2016 events. This was viewed as a practical alternative by the delegates and would be investigated closer to that time.

7: Election of Officers

Chairman:	Ben Rea;	Proposed: Australia.	Seconded: Scotland
European Vice President:	John Stuart	Proposed: Ireland.	Seconded: England
Asian Vice President:	Kanan Pacrisamy	Proposed: Australia	Seconded: New Zealand
Administration Manager:	Sue Briggs	Proposed: Australia	Seconded: Wales
Treasurer:	Glenn Paton	Proposed: Scotland	Seconded: Ireland
Technical Officer:	Peri Buckley	Proposed: Australia	Seconded: New Zealand

Mr Neil Greene and Mr David Peebles retired from the Executive with the thanks of Delegates for their service over the past 6 years.

8: General Business

The Constitution of IMHA allows for the formation of positions and sub committees as long as members of these groups are non-voting Executives and are subject to review after 12 months. This allows for the establishment of sub committees and positions such as the merger subcommittee.

It was agreed by Delegates that there is a need for help for the Asian and European VPs to attract new members.

To this end, Delegates agreed that Dirk Wellen, Barry Dunn, Franco Mellis and perhaps a representative from Ireland and/or South Africa would join John Stuart to support for increased continental membership.

A similar group was thought to be appropriate for Asia, subject to the recommendations of the Asian VP. Delegates felt it appropriate to seek initial representation from Hong Kong and perhaps NZ.

The success of these expanded groups would be examined at the next AGM at the 2014 World Cup 2014.

There being no further General Business, the meeting was closed at 7.30 pm.