

Summary of the Minutes of the IMHA Board Meeting December 2014

Board Members (BMs) Present:* Glenn Paton (President GP), Sue Briggs (Secretary SB), David Peebles (DP), Peri Buckley (PB), Deb Wilkes (DW), Jackie Whiller (JW).

Apologies: John Stuart (JS), Peter Jones (PJ), Eduardo Guelfande (EG).

Board Members' contributions are summarised to reduce levels of repetition within the two online.

Agenda:

1. Minutes of previous Board Meeting.

PB proposed and **DW** seconded approval of the Minutes for the September 2014 Board Meeting.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes and so there are no further Actions to be taken forward.

2. & 3. Minutes from the FIH Masters Panel Meeting at the 2014 FIH Congress in Marrakech.

These were accepted by the Board and there were no matters arising from the issues the meeting addressed.

4. Hosting Fees and Bids for future IMHA Tournaments.

There was a great deal of discussion surrounding the amount which IMHA should set as a Host Fee for countries wishing to host IMHA tournaments. **JW** suggested lower fees to ensure that smaller nations were not discouraged from bidding to host tournaments. **PB** was concerned that host fees were being passed onto players when they should be included in the financial planning with regard to the profits a host nation could make through food and bar charges. **GP** felt it would be difficult to ensure that the fees would not be passed onto players, even if host nations had to provide detailed budgets in advance. H. C. Rotterdam made huge profits from the last World Cup without charging pitch hire. St Albans are charging for pitch use during the upcoming European Championships, so comparisons between tournaments are not straight forward. **JW** suggested a sliding scale should be applied according to the size of a tournament. There was general agreement that this could allow the Board some flexibility if a tournament did not attract sufficient teams. It was generally agreed that fees should not be seen to be negotiable as this was likely to encourage every host nation to attempt to have the host fee reduced.

Eventually it was agreed that a fee of £1200 should be levied for Continental Championships and £2400 for World Cups. However, the first Pan-American tournament, which will probably be held in Buenos Aires in 2015, would not be required to pay a fee in an effort to encourage more countries from the American continents to become involved in Masters Hockey. They will have to complete all other aspects of a formal host bid to gain IMHA and FIH approval. A similar attitude would be taken with regard to the first African Continental Championships.

To ensure transparency in all aspects of the bidding process, a request for bids to host the 2017 Continental Championships and 2018 World Cup will be sent out at the end of January 2015.

Action: **SB** to send out the requests to all member nations using the new forms. **CRs** will spread the news across their continents and continue to encourage new nations to become IMHA members.

IMHA Indoor Tournament

With FIH withdrawing objections to 6-a-side indoor hockey and the lack of facilities in and around the FIH Indoor Tournament in Leipzig in Feb 2015, the Board agreed to invite IMHA members to bid to host the first ever IMHA Indoor Tournament.

Action: **SB** to invite IMHA nations to host

5. 2016 World Cup in Canberra.

DP re-confirmed that this tournament would run from the 28th Mar - 10th April 2016. There were on-going negotiations but all Local Committees were in place and the identification of potential sponsors was in hand.

6. 2015 European Championship

DW re-confirmed dates of the IMHA European Championship hosted by English Hockey as the 21st – 28th August 2014. The men would play at St Albans HC and the ladies at Old Loughtonians near Chigwell. The final match schedules would be in place by the end of March.

7. Egyptian Masters

Egyptian Masters players had alerted **GP** to developing problems between themselves and the Egyptian Hockey Federation. **GP** had received communications from the President of EGHF requesting IMHA to only communicate with the EGHF. Later, **GP** received a copy of a letter sent out by the EGHF to all their registered clubs. This Arabic document seems to imply that the EGHF regards the Egyptian Masters players as a social group which is not truly representative of the best Egyptian Masters players, an assertion which the players themselves strongly dispute. **GP** suggested that the IMHA should write a diplomatic letter to both parties outlining the IMHA rules and regulations with regard to how Masters Players are selected and examples of models of approach to the management of Masters Hockey, adopted by other IMHA member nations. The Board agreed to this approach.

This issue may well become a more regular feature if other national associations want more direct control of everything that happens at Master's level in their countries. **Action: GP** to write to EGHF.

8. Any Other Business (A.O.B.)

Number of IMHA Competitions:

GP raised the issue that some countries were concerned about the number of international competitions, the range of world-wide locations and the consequent expense for players. After some discussion the Board agreed that since the IMHA only organised Continental Championships and World Cups, to increase the gaps between these competitions would prevent players in some countries from ever being able to experience these tournaments. The 4 Nations, Trans-Tasman and potential 3 Nations (Holland, Germany and Belgium) are not tournaments within IMHA control and are therefore not a part of the hockey calendar for most IMHA nations. It was recognised that expense is an issue for players from smaller hockey nations, as they might represent their country more frequently over a greater number of years. If Continental Championships became qualifying tournaments for World Cups in the future, less strong hockey nations may well be eliminated from World Cups. This would reduce the number of tournaments available to such countries, but it would also prevent their players experiencing these wonderful events.

Hockey 5s:

The Pakistani delegation to the FIH Congress introduced the idea of Masters Hockey 5s given the success of the FIH tournaments. The Board agreed to the idea in principle given that it might help member nations who do not have enough players to form a full international squad. The format of such a competition might require some imaginative tweaking with regard to pitch set up and boarding around the edges of the pitches, but the format may appeal to a large number of IMHA nations. The Board would ask CRs to seek the opinions of Masters' players on their continents.

FIH 10 Year Plan & IMHA History:

The FIH asked the IMHA and WGMA to provide an outline of planned Masters' developments over the next 10 years and which might sit comfortably alongside the new FIH 10 year plan. To do this, the IMHA needs to invite its members to put forward suggestions as to where they would like the IMHA to be in 10 years. The FIH also requested a brief history of the 2 masters' organisations to go into the FIH museum of hockey.

Action: **GP** to provide such a summary for comment at the end of January 2015.

Executive Board and Articles of Memorandum:

The wording of this document does not allow for an Executive Board to make decisions without approval of the full Board, however if the title was changed to the 'Executive Committee', the setup of which was approved by the Board, that committee could carry out the same functions as the Executive Board without requiring a re-wording of the above articles. The Board agreed to this proposal.

** There were 2 Skype conference calls. Glenn Paton and David Peebles took part in the first call and Glenn Paton, Sue Briggs, Peri Buckley Deb Wilkes and Jackie Whiller took part in the second conference call.*