

Summary of the Minutes of the IMHA Board Meeting March 2015

Board Members (BMs) Present:* Glenn Paton (President GP), Sue Briggs (Secretary SB), Andy Nye (Treasurer AN), Eduardo Guelfande (EG), Peter Jones (PJ), David Peebles (DP), John Stuart (JS), Jackie Whiller (JW), Deb Wilkes (DW).

Apologies: Peri Buckley (PB),

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

Agenda:

3. Minutes of previous Board Meeting December 2014.

JS proposed and **JW** seconded approval of the Minutes for the December 2014 Board Meeting.

4. There were 3 matters arising from items in the previous minutes:

- The bidding process for Continental Championships and World Cup 18 was discussed briefly and it was agreed that invitations to host these should be sent out to the representatives of member nations given Scotland's request for early indications of the administrative procedures for these. **(Action SB)**
- **GP** informed the Board about Dimitri Lopukhov's proposal to organise a Masters Indoor Hockey tournament in Moscow. Dimitri had provided a video of the 2 indoor courts under a Moscow hotel and promised a detailed proposal relating to costs, accommodation and the facilities by the end of May 2015. **PJ** to discuss the possibility of Germany hosting such a tournament with Dirk Weller again. **(Action PJ)**
- **GP** had been in close contact with the Egyptian members about their issues with the Egyptian Hockey Federation (EGHF). He had sent letters to the EGHF offering to help resolve the issues but has to date received no replies from the EGHF. The issue is to be raised at the next FIH Masters Panel Meeting in Antwerp in July. **(Action GP)**

The Board approved the above actions.

5. FIH Masters Panel Online Meeting Minutes for 25th February 2015 distributed.

- i.** FIH Strategic Plan identified 5 goals from which the IMHA Board should identify the key focus areas which relate directly to the IMHA. The Board agreed that Hockey 5s, Communication, Events, Structure and Planning were the key areas upon which the IMHA should focus. **GP** to write up the main aspects to be addressed by the end of May for possible presentation at the FIH Masters Panel Meeting in Antwerp in July. **(Action GP)**
- ii.** IMHA History – **GP** to send the potted history of the IMHA to Melanie at FIH HQ to include in their Museum of Hockey. **(Action GP)**
- iii.** Masters Events update. **GP** to draw up a policy document with regard to how IMHA will plan and invite hosts for future events. **(Action GP)**
- iv.** Sanctioning / Communication of events between IMHA, FIH and CFs. **JS** to draw up a Flow Chart for the actions required to be followed by a host nation and IMHA officials. **(Action JS)**
- v.** Masters contact details for NAs. **GP** to request from CRs the contact details of those responsible for developing IMHA Masters so that CFs can be informed of these. **(Action GP)**
- vi.** Medical Support at tournaments: **SB** to chase up FIH for related documents and work with WGMA to produce medical guidance notes for host countries. **(Action SB)**
- vii.** Tournament Regulations regarding match timings. Sue Catton had requested that IMHA consider following the FIH tournament regulations of 4 x 15 minute sessions with clock stoppages/additions for penalty corners and goals following a decision by the FIH Executive Board. **GP** had suggested to Sue Catton that this was not an important issue for the IMHA and should wait until it could be fully discussed by the membership at the next AGM in Canberra 2016. However, Sue had intimated that it was more urgent and that the IMHA should adopt these timings sooner rather than later. **SB** contacted all our CRs and as many members as was possible to ascertain their views. Following a very narrow vote in favour of the new proposals, the IMHA Executive Committee agreed that the IMHA would follow that route. This was communicated to Sue Catton. The Board agreed to support the Executive Board in this. Subsequent to this discussion at this online Board Meeting, confusing communications were received from England Hockey (EH), the Euromasters hosts and FIH. EH indicated that they could cope with the required stoppages/additions to timing of 4 x 15 minute match sessions and then indicated that they could not cope with that set up. Meanwhile, the FIH stated that IMHA had to apply for approval to change from the 2 x 35 minute set up. **GP** indicated to the FIH that he was unhappy with this development questioning why

sanctioning was required when the FIH had apparently requested the change of match format and why there seemed to be no awareness of this amongst the FIH officials with whom the IMHA was in communication. In frustration **GP** issued a simple statement to the FIH that the IMHA would apply common sense with regard to what was the most appropriate format nearer the time of the tournament, following consultations with the host hockey club. He also reminded the FIH officials that the FIH Masters Panel had agreed that the IMHA and WGMA had the freedom to make such decisions on the basis of what was safe and most appropriate for the age groups of the players for which they were responsible.

- viii. FIH Player eligibility regulations – the Board agreed that the IMHA would continue to follow these regulations as closely as possible and would only allow exceptions on nationality and age criteria in extremely unusual circumstances and where it would benefit Masters Hockey tournaments and the expansion of Masters Hockey. The Board approved allowing island nations such as those in the Caribbean to form one international team (e.g. the West Indies), even though they were registered as separate nations with the FIH.
- ix. The new Masters Brand logo from the FIH was approved by the Board.
- x. FIH website – there were delays in the creation of a Masters section on this website due to technical problems.

Euromasters (2015 European Championship - St Albans).

GP provided an update on the development of this tournament. No significant issues were reported.

5. 2016 World Cup in Canberra.

DP re-confirmed that this tournament would run from the 28th Mar - 10th April 2016. Planning was on-going and **GP** had signed the hosting document on behalf of the IMHA.

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

GP indicated his and **SB**'s attendance at the July FIH Masters Panel meeting in Antwerp. **GP** also indicated that he had to make returns to Company House on behalf of the IMHA Ltd. Subsequent to the completion of the online forms, which cost the IMHA approximately £13, there has been no indication of problems with the submission from Company House and the HMRC (Business Tax Office) has indicated that they accept the not for profit status of the IMHA and consequently the IMHA will not be required to pay any Corporation Tax.

The Executive Committee has drawn up terms of reference for a Technical Committee which will support and advise the Association and future host nations with regard to all the technical aspects of any tournament. Key specialists in this area, from around the world, are to be invited to join this committee. **PB** will lead this committee and report developments directly to the Executive Committee and the Board.

AN has sent out invoices to member nations for the IMHA 2015 annual fees. There are some new countries coming on board the good ship IMHA.

Next Online Board Meeting: Weekend 26th-28th June.

** There were 3 Skype conference calls.*