

IMHA Board Meeting 11-13th December 2015

Agenda:

1. Attendance:

- Friday 20:00 GMT – Eduardo Guelfande (EG).
- Sunday 10:00 GMT – Jackie Whiller (JW), Deb Wilkes (DW), David Peebles (DP).
- Sunday 21:00 GMT – Peri Buckley (PB), Andy Nye (AN) & Sue Briggs (SB).
- Glenn Paton (GP) attended every session.

2. Apologies:

John Stuart and Peter Jones.

3. Minutes of the Previous Online Board Meeting: July 2015

These were accepted as accurate by the entire Board.

4. Matters Arising:

Following the IMHA document on the future of Masters Hockey (Spring 2015) the WGMA published their vision of the way forward for the WGMA. GP summarised its contents to the Board. Basically the WGMA Board are opposed to any merger /closer integration of the IMHA and WGMA. The WGMA believes the FIH Masters Panel is the only appropriate place to discuss the best interests of the two organisations as separate entities. **GP** expressed disappointment that this paper did not provide alternative considerations of the specific future issues identified in the IMHA document. He had hoped that serious consideration of these issues by the WGMA might provide alternate approaches which might benefit both organisations. The WGMA paper identifies only one or two general reasons as to why the two organisations should remain independent, but there is little of detail to better inform Masters/Grand Masters players across the age groups. In the light of this declaration, there was general agreement that the IMHA Board should just focus on the needs of the IMHA and seek to work more closely with the FIH in that regard. **GP** believes that a consequence of the WGMA decision will be to reduce the importance and frequency of FIH Masters Panel meetings. Liaising directly with the FIH will become a major corner stone of future IMHA policy.

5. 2016 Canberra World Cup:

- **Team entries:**
Sue brought the Board up to date regarding the latest gains/losses in teams participating. The 35+ Men's group is struggling to be a viable competition, but there were good numbers in most of the other age ranges for both men and women, ensuring that there will be real competition for medal positions. Argentina pulling out was balanced by the possible additions of 2 Malaysian and 3 Egyptian teams. There may well be more additions and losses in the coming weeks prior to the publishing of the match schedule.
- **Bi-Annual General Meeting:**
The date of this meeting will be Thursday 31st April at 18:00 hours, subject to match scheduling requirements.
- **Elections to the Board:**
Of the present Board members only David Peebles and Peri Buckley indicated that they would not wish to put themselves forward for re-election. John Stuart and Peter Jones' intentions will be sought by email. **SB** will circulate the nomination forms to enable other interested IMHA members to stand for election to the Board at the AGM. A member, not in attendance at the AGM, may stand for election providing their proposer and seconder meet the appropriate IMHA regulations. Only those in attendance with voting rights will be eligible to elect any candidates.
- **Continental Reps:**
The Board agreed that these posts were a work in progress and that these positions should be maintained, with more direct guidance as to the part these Reps should play in the development of the IMHA.

6. 2017 Euros:

- **Tilburg bid:**
The Board unanimously agreed that, as the only potential host to bid for the 2017 IMHA European Championships, that Tilburg HC in the Netherlands should be invited to complete the relevant forms,

and, subject to these meeting the requirements of IMHA tournament regulations, be offered that coveted role. One of the benefits of this would be its close proximity to the FIH Europeans in Amsterdam. Action: **SB** is to communicate this decision directly to Tilburg representatives.

7. 2018 World Cup:

- **Spanish bid:**

Following the IMHA invitation to host the 2018 IMHA World Cup, only Spain responded. However, the response advised that available facilities were insufficient to provide enough pitches for both the Men's and the Women's competition. The Board agreed that the number of appropriate playing surfaces in Madrid should be ascertained with the hosts. Action: **DP** to make contact with the relevant people in that regard. The Board was generally unhappy with the idea of splitting the Men and Women's competitions. **JW** and **DW** suggested that the women could start their competition before the men. The men's first matches would commence around the time of the women's cross-over or semi-finals enabling the AGM to be held at that time and allow everyone the chance to enjoy the atmosphere together. The men's matches would continue after the ladies tournament had been completed reducing time pressures on pitch use. This setup would reduce the length of the tournament for the players, but would increase the length for the hosts and officials. It was agreed to defray this decision until the number of available pitches in Madrid could be ascertained.

8. Moscow Indoor Tournament 2016:

SB reported that only 3 teams had entered this competition and unless there was a dramatic increase in numbers before Christmas that the tournament should be cancelled.

9. 2017 or 2018 IMHA Indoor World Cup in the Netherlands.

The Dutch masters were keen to hold this competition and have the facilities to provide a meaningful tournament. The Board's preference was that it should be held in 2018 rather than 2017, but that this could be discussed with the Dutch providing they successfully completed the IMHA Indoor Hockey Hosting agreement. **GP** is to contact the Dutch Masters in that regard.

10. IMHA website issues. Technical issues are still preventing its completion. **GP** to invite a web expert to solve the problems. Integration with the WGMA website was rejected as a possible solution. **GP** to communicate this to the WGMA.

11. Treasurer Report:

- There are still problems adding **AN** to the approved list of those with direct access to the IMHA Bank Account. **GP** to continue trying to resolve the issues with the Bank of Scotland.
- **GP** identified a bank account surplus of **£2242.98**. The equivalent of £1000 had been paid to **SB** to cover her expenses for attending the FIH Congress in Marrakech. **SB** declined to submit the details of the full expenses incurred, although these were considerably higher. **GP** was paid £223.32 for expenses incurred in attending two planning meetings before the 2015 European Championships in London.
- **GP** identified shortfalls in 2015 IMHA fees. He is to re-send invoices to the Dutch Masters (£400) and Hong Kong (£100) in this regard. **JW** is to follow up in regard to the Welsh fees and **AN** is to check with the Irish HA with regard to the Irish fees. There are two remaining unidentified fee deposits – one of £350 (possibly the Irish fees) and £120. **DW** is to follow up the unpaid IMHA hosting fee of £1250 from English Hockey for the Euro Masters and check about a response from EH with regard to Italian requests for a return of fees for a team which withdrew from the 2015 London Euromasters. **GP** to discuss compensation with the WGMA for hosting the 60+ Women's competitions in Rotterdam, London and Canberra. These teams pay annual fees to WGMA but IMHA carry the workload. The vast majority of the 60+ women have expressed a desire to be part of the IMHA instead of the WGMA. Action: **JW, AN, DW & GP**.

12. AOCB There was no other business submitted by the Board.