

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of the Illawarra District Hockey Incorporated held at the Illawarra Master Builders Club on Tuesday 19 November, 2013.

Present: Garry Bull (President), Craig Nealon (Immediate Past President), Terry Ashby (Vice President), Wes Johnston (Finance Director, Life Member), Janet Cowan (Rep Team Director, Unanderra), Craig Klaus (Umpires Director), David Rieck (Development Director), Graham Body (Planning Director), David Sharpe (Competition Director), Danny Shipp (Life Member), Wayne Billett (Life Member), Peter Cummins (Life Member), Jason Collett & Keith Maywald (Albion Park), Jan Massie (Albion Park juniors), Daryl Elliott (Flames), Brad Boon & Michael Thomas (Dapto), Anthony Gibson & Nathan Harper (Fairy Meadow), Greg Condon & Tony Dellapina (University), Jonathan Castle (Wests Illawarra), Mark Wright, Mark Bisby, Darren Airey, Brendan McDonald (Robertson), John O'Donnell (Judiciary chairman).

Apologies: Warren Gale (Indoor Director), Gary Wilsmore (Life Member), Ray Tolhurst (Life Member), Dave Johnston (Life Member), Allan Went (Life Member), Peter Garrard (Kiama), Dave Brookfield (Kiama), Craig Johnston (University, Ernie Orth (Indoor Committee), Warren Gale (Indoor Director), Tyson Street (Indoor Committee).

In Attendance: John Pemberton (IDHI Administrative Officer).

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm. Garry Bull welcomed all delegates and outlined voting rights and meeting procedures. He thanked all club officials and the Board members for their support over the past season.

Minutes from the previous AGM: The minutes from the 2012 AGM were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Business Arising:

1. It was noted that the IDHI had contracted the services of Diskray Pty Ltd to act as IDHI Administrative Officer for the 2013 Hockey season.
2. A copy of the 2012 IDHI audited Financial Statements had been forwarded to the IDHI Public Officer Allan Went to send to the Fair Trading NSW.

Item 3 Acceptance of the 2013 IDHI Annual Report

An electronic copy of the Annual Report had been distributed and hard copies were available to the meeting. Garry Bull discussed various aspects of a successful season for IDHI. He thanked all directors, coaches and managers for their reports in the Annual Report.

The meeting accepted the 2013 Annual Report.

Item 4. Acceptance of the 2013 IDHI Financial Statements

An electronic copy of the audited Financial Statements had been distributed and hard copies were available to the meeting in the Annual Report. Wes noted an overall profit for the season of \$3,681.12 comprising: Field Hockey Profit \$ 2,789.96, Indoor Hockey Profit \$ 2,191.09, Masters Hockey Loss \$-1,299.93.

Wes noted that junior representative team expenses were substantially lower in 2013 as the player's families organised their own transport and paid for accommodation to each NSW championship.

The meeting accepted the 2013 financial statements.

2. A copy of the 2013 audited IDHI Financial Statements has been forwarded to the IDHI Public Officer Allan Went to send to Fair Trading NSW.

Item 5. Election of Office Bearers

Garry Bull thanked all previous Board members for their hard work over the 2013 season. All positions were declared vacant.

President: Garry Bull had submitted a written nomination and was duly elected.

Vice President: There were no nominations and the position was declared vacant.

Director Administration: There were no nominations for the position.

Director Coaching: Ernie Orth had submitted a written nomination and was duly elected.

Director Competition: There were no nominations and the position was declared vacant.

Director Development: David Rieck had submitted a written nomination and was duly elected.

Director Finance: Wes Johnston had submitted a written nomination and was duly elected.

Director Planning: Graham Body had submitted a written nomination and was duly elected.

Director Promotion & Media: There were no nominations.

Director Records & Registrations: There were no nominations.

At this time, the election of office bearers was suspended until after the discussions relating to Special Resolution 2.

Item 6. **Notices of Motion received for changes to the Constitution**

Special Resolution 1

In accordance with Division 3 of the Association Incorporation Act 2009:

Illawarra District Hockey Incorporated amalgamate with Illawarra Women's Hockey Association Incorporated to form a new Incorporated Association.

The name of the new association to be "Hockey Illawarra Incorporated" or similar name as approved by the Department of Fair Trading.

This resolution lapses if Illawarra Women's Hockey Association Incorporated has not passed a special resolution to merge with Illawarra District Hockey Incorporated within 90 days of the adoption of this resolution by Illawarra District Hockey Incorporated.

Proposed by: Wesley Johnston (Life Member IDH) Seconded: Wayne Billett (Life Member IDH)

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of accepting this special resolution.

Special Resolution 2

The constitution of Illawarra District Hockey Incorporated be replaced in whole by the attached proposed constitution dated 19th November 2013.

Proposed by: Wesley Johnston (Life Member IDH) Seconded: Wayne Billett (Life Member IDH)

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of accepting this special resolution.

The election of office bearers recommenced.

Director Rep teams: Janet Cowan & Greg Condon had submitted written nominations. Janet withdrew her nomination. Greg Condon was elected.

Janet nominated for the vacant Vice President position. The nomination was seconded and Janet was elected as Vice President.

Director Umpiring: Craig Klaus & Tyson Street had submitted written nominations. A secret ballot was held with scrutineers Wayne Billett & Peter Cummins. Craig Klaus was elected.

David Sharpe nominated for the vacant Competition Director's position. The nomination was seconded and David was elected as Competition Director.

Director Indoor: The Indoor Committee had appointed Warren Gale as Indoor Director.

Director Masters: The Masters Committee will appoint a Masters Director.

With the passing of Special Resolution 2 and at the conclusion of the AGM, the new Board will take a new structure as outlined in the new constitution i.e. of eight Board Directors and a series of sub-committees for the various portfolios. However in 2014 a transitional Board will operate with greater than the eight stipulated Board members hence the election of the office bearers above. The Immediate Past President Craig Nealon is also a 2014 transitional Board member. As such there will be twelve Directors in the 2014 Board.

In addition, the Board were given the power to enter into negotiations with an outside contractor to provide services as Executive Director (including Director Administration, Director Records & Registration and Director Promotions & Media) for the 2014 season.

Discussions on the 2014 competitions format: Suggestions for changes to the 2014 junior and senior competitions had been received from Fairy Meadow, Unanderra, Albion Park juniors and Wests Illawarra clubs.

1 Fairy Meadow HC suggested for the junior competition:

- Where a club nominates two teams into an age division they are required to nominate the teams into an A or B Division or both into an A division.
- IDHI conduct a 5-6 round qualification period.
- IDHI reviews nominations with final say on A or B division qualification.
- Complete a competition carrying points from 'pre season' in two divisions.
- The FMHC committee recognises that there could be scheduling conflicts but the membership consider this an acceptable compromise to achieve their members outcome.

Unanderra HC also felt the junior competitions should be separated into A & B divisions from the start of the competitions.

The meeting agreed to further discussion at the February SGM.

Comments:

- scheduling of all club teams together at the same venue would be extremely unlikely under this format. This would make it very difficult for players in lower age to play up a division if the older team is short of players i.e. there would need to be stand alone teams for age divisions.
- current scenario is each team plays each other once then if there is a large number of teams in that division, the competition separates into A & B divisions for the last month of the season.
- meeting felt the minimum number of nominated teams for two divisions would be 9.
- great concerns that in a 4 team division each team plays each other 5 times during the season and players would lose interest in playing the same players monthly.
- situation of lopsided results may be worsened for the team who is lowest in the A division.

2 Fairy Meadow HC suggested in relation to the playing across by laws - two areas of concern:

1. If 2 teams are split into the same skill division, player swaps within that skill division could allow teams to manipulate the final standings (stacking sides).
2. If the 2 teams are placed across the skill division split, player swaps could defeat the intent of splitting by team skill.'

The meeting agreed to further discussion at the February SGM.

3 Fairy Meadow HC would like to encourage both the IDHI and IWHA to coordinate one round of their first grade draws to allow for the amalgamated clubs (FMHC, University, Wests, Dapto) the opportunity to play a round of women's and men's first grade back to back on a Sat or a Sun. Ideally this should happen in the first 3 rounds of the outdoor competition. The committee recognise the efforts made to date to facilitate this but would like IDHI and IWHA to continue to try to coordinate draws to suit.

The meeting felt this was a very good suggestion and the competition sub-committee will contact the IWHA.

4 Fairy Meadow HC would like the 2014 indoor competition coordinator to consider delaying start times for the first games for the junior competition until 5pm. Whilst the committee know the schedule is very full for indoor commitments, there are a number of local schools that do not finish until 3.20pm (ICS Cordeaux and Cedars Christian College). Children coming from those schools have difficulty making the 4:10pm start time as they need to be picked up by parents from school which can create some challenges for parents and can limit participation. A 5pm earliest start time allows these children time to be bussed home, change and be driven to the stadium. A suggestion to relieve the pressure on the schedule may be to move some age group competitions to Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons (dependent on other bookings of course).

The meeting asked that this suggestion be discussed by the Indoor Committee.

5 Albion Park juniors HC suggested that the Under 17 competition be changed to an Under 18 competition to align with the HNSW Championships.

HNSW will decide on the future Under 17 or Under 18 age category for both Boys and Girls championships in December 2013. It was agreed that IDHI would follow the HNSW decision i.e. if HNSW change to Under 18 Boys championships, the local competition will change to Under 18s.

5 Wests Illawarra HC proposed a concept of three divisions for the senior competition.

A Division - All clubs can draw on any player graded in B division regardless of club. A B division graded player may only play for 2 teams in A division i.e. their home club and one alternate club of their choosing. 1st grade matches will be played at 3:15pm on Sundays to allow for neutral umpires for all matches. Match umpire payments be increased to \$50 to entice local and out of area qualified umpires to do these matches.

B Division - For a club to enter the B division they must nominate both a 2nd and 3rd grade team. In the event that a club wishes to enter more teams they must enter the equal number of teams in both 2nd and 3rd grade. Clubs with multiple teams will be treated as separate clubs in the B division i.e. no playing across and no regrades across. 2nd grade will be played at 1:30pm on Sundays and 3rd grade will be played at 12:00pm on Sundays.

C Division - Lower grade hockey (i.e. 4th & 5th grade) with the number of grades to suit team entry numbers each year. Matches will be played on Sunday Mornings at 9:00am and 10:30am and other such times as turfs are available.

The aim is to produce a strong competitive 1st grade competition. There is a large gap in the standard of 1st grade teams and the proposal is aimed to assist Dapto HC to continue in 1st grade and strengthen for their future and also to allow Kiama HC to enter 1st grade in the future. It will also allow clubs to play at same venues each week with consecutive teams in B divisions.

Comments:

- Concerns over who pays the fees for players playing for different clubs as well as need for several uniforms for each player.
- Suggestion to introduce B division over several seasons i.e. club could have a team in A division and B division 2nd grade in 2014 with aim to have A division and two teams in B division in 2015.
- Concerns that an A division player could drop out at the last minute and the club may require the B division player play both A & B division - then the other club would be short of a player for their match as the current by-laws only allow a player to play two matches per round.
- Concerns that an A Division coach will not want their player to play B division then A division consecutively.
- Produce a 'pick up list' of B division players who would like to play A division as well as play for their club. Contact all players asking if they wished to be placed on the list
- 'Pick up list' could act like a draft system i.e. last placed 1st grade club could get their pick from the list; 2nd last club could get second pick etc etc i.e. aim is to strengthen the bottom teams and not strengthen the top teams.

Other Business

1 All players must pay their HNSW fees through HockeyNet by credit card in 2014. Players will be encouraged to pay when they register on line and certainly must pay their HNSW fees before the HNSW census date.

2 The meeting thanked Terry Ashby for his role as Vice President for the past five seasons. The meeting also thanked Tony Dellapina for the large number of local hockey photographs he placed on the facebook page.

3 John O'Donnell spoke about a recent judiciary matter involving video evidence and the use of video guidelines that the Judiciary Committee have sent to the Board for confirmation.

4 The first meeting of the Board will be on Monday 2 December at 7.00 pm at the Builders club. Much of the meeting agenda will involve matters relating from the new constitution and amalgamation.

As such the proposed officiating workshop will be delayed until the February meeting.

The meeting closed at 9. 10 pm.

Garry Bull,
IDHI President