

Minutes from the Board of Management meeting of Illawarra District Hockey Inc. held at the Illawarra Master Builders Club on Monday 28 April, 2014 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Garry Bull (President), Janet Cowan (Vice President), Wes Johnston (Finance Director), David Sharpe (Competition Director), Greg Condon (Rep Team Director), David Rieck (Development Director), Craig Klaus (Umpires Director), Warren Gale (Indoor Director), Ernie Orth (Coaching Director).

Apology: Craig Nealon (Immediate Past President), Graham Body (Planning Director), John O'Donnell (Masters Director).

In attendance: John Pemberton (IMHI Administrative Officer), Anthony Gibson & Michael Hickey (Fairy Meadow HC)

Item 1. Discussions with Fairy Meadow HC

Garry welcomed Anthony & Michael to the third of the club review meetings noting it was an opportunity for the club and the Board to discuss any issues.

Of great concern to the club and Board was the withdrawal of FMHC's 1st grade team. Anthony explained that a number of issues arose (including work, studies and movement from the Illawarra) whereby 9 of last year's 1sts team became unavailable at the start of the season. The issues affected all of the club were nearly 50% of the players did not return for the 2014 season which included several of the junior team coaches. These changes caused a flow on affect with club communications, sponsorship, fundraising etc suffering. As such 2014 is considered a rebuilding year to hopefully a better FMHC.

FMHC recognise the importance of junior player pathways to 1st grade and do not want to become a feeder club for other 1st grade team. They plan to investigate a partnership with perhaps University to enter a joint 1st grade team with for the 2015 competition. They have formed a joint U15 girls team with Wests in the IWHA Monday competition.

Junior numbers are strong with squads of 17 or 18 players per age group, mainly girls. In particular a number of U13 players have great potential. They generally lack goal keepers. FMHC have suffered for several years as there has been limited flow on from U17s to grade teams.

Importantly they need accredited coaches for all teams as a matter of urgency. Ben Senior has been in contact and plans to assist with coaches planning and accreditation. Garry noted the Australian Sports Commission's active after school program where funds are available to pay coaches to provide opportunities to provide coaching.

They feel the quality of the recent first grade competitions has been very high. However several clubs (including Fairy Meadow) cannot now compete with the elite players at Albion Park and University and the competition is weakening (and perhaps unsustainable) as a result. Players are not keen to pay club fees to be beaten every week – on field success is most important.

The Board plans to hold another strategic planning forum later this year were the 2015 first grade competition format will be the only agenda item.

They asked if the junior competition s/c can look at the competition draw with regard the girls state championships particularly U15s where they will need to forfeit or gain a deferment as so many of the players will be away on these weekends.

They feel the HNSW up front registration fee has assisted their players to understand why their playing fees are so high i.e. the major component goes directly to HNSW. Anthony also suggested IDHI investigate the Football South Coast facebook site which is very informative to players and suggested IDHI should develop a similar site.

There committee is very happy with IDHI communication and services. They feel that the development squad and clinic activities are most important in player development.

Kiama HC officials will be invited to attend the May meeting with the meeting to start at 6.30 pm.

Action: John

Minutes from the previous Board meeting:

The minutes from the previous meeting were moved and accepted as a true and accurate record.

Item 2. Business Arising

Australian representative shirts framing: The shirts are being framed and will be available soon.

Action: Garry

Item 3 Sub-Committee Reports

Finance & Administration

Correspondence:

Hockey NSW distributed information on the new 'Child Protection & Working with Children' requirements advising all clubs that any members (coaches, managers, trainers, umpires, bbq helpers etc) who are involved with Under 18 year old members must complete the 'member protection declaration' form and that clubs must keep all of the completed forms in their records for 3 years.

Action: clubs

HNSW also advised that from 2015 all 'paid person's (other than umpires) working with Under 18 members must gain their 'working with children' number and complete the online WWC check.

Finances: Wes presented the Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, Aged Receivables and Bank Reconciliation statements to 28 April – Total Equity \$154,313.57, Net loss \$56,915.07. The meeting approved the Financial Statements.

Wes advised:

- 1st and 2nd Instalments of club fees are due Wednesday 30 April.
- Player invoices for Masters Over 50 & 55 have been sent to players
- Player invoices for Under 18, 15 and 13 Rep representative teams have been sent to players
- Player Invoices for the junior development program run in February and March have been sent to players.

Registrations:

1 All match result sheet data had been inputted to HockeyNet for juniors, U18s and senior competition matches. There are a number of players not registered on the 'Illawarra' HockeyNet site from Shoalhaven U18s, SHHA U18s, Mittagong and Robertson first grade teams.

Action: John

2 The following requests had been submitted for 14 year old players (i.e. each turns 15 in 2014) to play grade hockey. Each club request was accompanied by a permission letter by a parent/guardian.

Ben Hayman	Albion Park
Matt Tyler	Dapto
Daine Richards	Fairy Meadow
Will Orth	University
Luke Westblade	Wests

3 Graham suggested a change to the by-law relating to the exemptions above.

Current wording '2.02 Players must be 15 years of age or over to play in the grade competitions. If players 14 years and under wish to play grade Hockey the players must provide a letter from their parents/guardians allowing them to play grade Hockey and the club concerned must demonstrate to the Board that the player is capable of playing grade Hockey. The Board may then give permission for the underage player to play in grade competitions.'

New wording "2.02 Players must be turning 15 years of age or older in the calendar year of the competition to play in grade competitions."

Action: for men's competition sub-committee discussion

4 Several of the clubs have entered their team match sheet data in to HockeyNet for junior, U18s & senior competition matches so far whereas John has entered the data for the other clubs.

The meeting decided that from round 6 onwards clubs will be charged \$10 per match sheet not entered in HockeyNet; however, noting sometimes circumstances may arise that hinder the process, each club will be allowed two exemptions per team for the remainder of the season i.e. a 3 team club will be allowed to miss 6 result sheet data entries for the rest of the season without penalty.

Action: Clubs

HNSW Association Reform:

HNSW CEO Tony Mestrov and Board member Rebecca Sanders addressed officials from IDHI, IWHA, SCWHA and Shoalhaven HA at the Illawarra Credit Union stadium on Monday 14 April.

The purpose of the forum was to provide an overview of the reform process to all interested members and to answer any questions from those present. Tony and Rebecca noted that during the reform process the HNSW Board had thoroughly investigated all aspects of the reform and that any proposal to change the proposed model (a new combined Illawarra, South Coast and Shoalhaven Hockey association) must be very detailed and compelling for the Board to consider any change. Any such proposals must be submitted by late April so that they could be discussed at the 9 May HNSW Board meeting.

The next meeting of the joint association executive group will be on Tuesday 20 May at 7.00 pm at Kiama Leagues Club.

The meeting discussed an IDHI proposal for an alternate model for the proposed amalgamation which included IDHI, IWHA & SCWHA as a combined association with Shoalhaven HA as a separate association from now on or in the future.

The rationale behind the alternate suggestion is based on the geographic spread between the various LGA's with Illawarra and South Coast covering Wollongong, Kiama and Shellharbour LGA's with Shoalhaven covered by the Shoalhaven LGA.

The merger of the three local associations is seen as providing a platform to market our sport and maximise the potential in the region. Hockey NSW should look at options for the development of the Shoalhaven region as a viable association of the future. The suggested options include allowing SHA to continue as an association under the current structure or to allow Shoalhaven to continue as an association for 3 years at which time they must meet all reform criteria. During this interim period Illawarra South Coast or Southern Highlands associations be asked to facilitate representative selection for players in this region where Shoalhaven have insufficient numbers to field a team.

Action: Wes and Garry to produce a paper to submit to HNSW

Game Development:

David R and Garry met with RCC Ben Senior this morning to discuss ongoing programs. Ben will concentrate on developing school participation, coaching the coaches programs with local clubs particularly Dapto and Fairy Meadow and assisting the representative team coaches.

They noted that Ben will establish an office in the ICU Stadium for club representative enquiries. In addition, the postponed U12 development clinic will be re-organised for the first week in July and Ben will organise a Hookin2Hockey program in October in conjunction with local school visits.

Officiating:

1 The officiating committee confirmed the adoption of the HNSW lightning safety code - the 30/30 rule i.e. play is stopped for 30 minutes when the lightning/thunder ratio is 30 seconds or less. In addition if play is stopped due to the 30/30 rule players should congregate in the 'bullpen' at ICU complex, the Croom Rd building or in the University Field dugouts.

A discussion arose about the match format once 30 or more minutes are lost due to the lightning code e.g. if 30 minutes are lost near the start of the match is the remaining time divided into equal playing halves??

Action: competition sub/committee's to discuss what times apply

2 Greg reported an incident with a young person acting as a Technical Official at a recent U18s match. The meeting confirmed that a responsible person must be the TO in all matches and adopted that all TO's (if not appointed by the Officiating Committee) must be 15 years or older.

3 Clubs are reminded that all captains should wear a black arm band to notify the umpires.

Junior Field Competition:

1 Deferred match – rd 1 U15s Dapto vs Fairy Meadow.

Action: Richard Heffernan, Jodie Howard & Wes

2 With withdrawal of the second Dapto U15 team, DHC had 18 players for the remaining team. The club asked the junior competition s/c to allow all 18 players to play in competition matches (IDHI by-laws allow only 16 players per match). The JFCSC accepted the request.

3 The JFCSC allowed the request for an overage girl to play for the Flames U11 team subject to a review of her ability after a further 2 competition rounds.

Action: Richard Heffernan

4 Four former Seacliff HC players registered with the University club at the start of the season. With the withdrawal of the University second U11 and U13 teams, the players requested a move to Dapto HC. The JFCSC allowed the request.

Under 18 competition:

After the first round of nine matches, the competition has now separated into A division (top five teams) and B division (remaining four teams). Second round matches commence on Wednesday 3 May. Fairy Meadow club have agreed to switch their match with Shoalhaven/Kiama to Nowra hockey centre on 28 May at 7.00 pm.

Men's Field Competition:

David S tabled a chart suggesting a formal procedure for deferred match requests.

Team requesting fixtures change:

- investigates an alternate date, time & venue.
- makes contact with other club with proposed date & venue (cc competition committee)
- If opposing club agreement, contacts competition committee with details
- competition committee contacts field provider and umpires & TO's

Action: David S to distribute chart

It was suggested that no deferments are allowed in the last competition round and that all deferred matches be played prior to the last competition round. In addition, if a competition separates into an A & B division, all deferred first round matches must be played before the split to divisions.

Action: for discussion by the field competition s/c's

Deferred matches:

1 Dapto HC requested a deferment of the 1st grade match on Sunday 13 July (many players unavailable). University agreed to the deferment.

Action: Dapto to confirm new match date

2 University Blue vs Red 2nd grade rd 4 match (overlapping 3rd grade time). The match will be played on Sunday 18 May at noon.

Action: John to book Uni Field, University to organise umpires, Officiating committee to organise TO

3 Mittagong vs Wests first grade rd 2 (abandoned due to lightning).

Action: Mittagong to suggest an alternate time & date at Welby Field preferably Sunday 18 May.

4 Dapto vs Robertson first grade rd 2 (Robertson request deferment due to cricket final).
Suggested Sunday 18 May at 3.00 pm at Croom Rd. This would change to 5th grade Albion Park vs Dapto at CR to 1.30 pm.

Action: John to contact Dapto & Robertson

Rep Teams:

Appointments confirmed:

U11s Coach - Mark Campbell; Manager - Nathan Harper
U13 A Coach - Steve Tuddenham; Manager - David Rieck
U13 Development Coach - Mark Campbell; Manager - Kellie Kembrey
U15 A Coach - Nick Jennings; Assistant Coach - Joe Plumb; Manager - Karina Welsh
U15 Development Coach - Ern Orth; Assistant Coach - Oliver Dunn; Manager - Mel Tarrant
U18 A Coach - Scott Govers; Manager - Bruce Parsons
U18 Development Coach - Ern Orth; Manager - Andrew McGeechan
Opens TBA

Teams ratified:

Under 11s – Darcy Campbell, Bailey Craft, Scott Crisafi, Matthew Gale, Damon Harper, Isaac Maris, Balin Munro, Isaac Officer, Angus O’Neill, Hamish O’Neill, Luke Potter, Bayden Simmons, Dylan Simmons, Sam Wright-Smith. Carnivals at Goulburn, Canberra or Moorebank.

Under 13s A - Ben Byron, Scott Crisafi, Rory Hanrahan, Riley Harper, Toby Jennings, Jordan Lillie, Sage McAteer, Balin Munro, Connor Tuddenham, Mitch Wells, Joel Westblade, Sam Wright-Smith. Championships at Grafton.

Under 13s Development – Prathamesh Agalgaonkar, Darcy Campbell, Kyle Fahey, Oscar Farrell, Deon Hales, Luke Kembrey, Tyler Kembrey, Daniel Mayo, Josh McKinnon, Lachlan O’Neill, Bayden Simmons, Dylan Simmons, Marnie Steenkamp, Kyle Welch. Championships at Grafton or various carnivals.

U15s A – Sam Airey, Higgle Blaik, Cody Bain, Thomas Dolby, Toby Jennings, Dean McPherson, Will Orth, Daine Richards, Jake Sheppard, Sam Townsend, Connor Tuddenham, Matt Tyler, Hayden Welsh, Josh Wright-Smith. Championships at Wagga Wagga

U15 Development – Jack Colvin, Luke Downey, Jack Dunn, Ben Hayman, Lachlan Jones, Ryan McIntosh, Caelan Smith, Adam Tarrant, Joel Westblade, Luke Westblade, and others. Moorebank Carnival

Opens: Ernie and Wes are contacting a targeted list of first and second grade players about their availability to represent Illawarra at Newcastle over the June long weekend. Illawarra have entered two teams for the Open championships but availability has been hindered by the new Sydney Association by-laws which severely penalise players who wish to play for their home association (as per the HNSW state championships rules) but are then deemed unavailable to play for their club in the Sydney competition.

Action: Garry to talk to the HNSW Board about the matter; Ernie & Wes

Masters Hockey:

1 John O’D had submitted reports on both the O55 and O50 Masters championships. Illawarra are the O50 A champions.

2 John is currently chairing the O45 state championships hosting committee (hence his apology for the Board meeting). Illawarra host the titles from 16 to 18 May at ICU fields (insufficient teams to require Croom rd fields).

Action: JOD

Garry will contact the IHI Board about the masters committee running a bbq during the titles.

Action: Garry

David S will contact HNSW Masters Secretary Peter Hayes and organiser Tony Nixon about a Call to Arms Men's Cancer Awareness collection during the O45 titles. If acceptable, David will contact the NSW Cancer Council with details. It was suggested that the local Call to Arms collection could be rd 10 Sunday 1st June.

Action: David S

Facilities:

Illawarra Hockey Inc:

- From the recent AGM, IHI is searching for a full time Treasurer and a community member. IDHI members are Garry, Warren, Alan Went & Jonathan Castle.
- IHI are trialling an online booking system
- Wollongong City Council have prepared a Sports Facilities Reference Group strategy document for future sports facilities. Garry has presented an Illawarra hockey requirements section.

Other Business:

1 Dapto HC noted their first grade team plan to wear pink socks in support of the upcoming IWHA cancer support day.

Garry Bull,
President