

**Minutes of the Thirty First Meeting of the Council  
held on 18 March 2010**

Present:	Mr M Ward	Chairman
	Dr N S Wrench	Vice Chairman
	Mr M Taylor	Hon Treasurer
	Mr B Rea	Management
	Mr R Beer	Management/Oxon
	Mr D Browne	Management/Kent
	Mrs S Marlow	Management/Girls Youth
	Mr J Gawley	Technical/ Vice President
	Ms F Tierney	SWHL and Hampshire
	Mr R Macer	Boys Youth
	Mr R Strudwick	RDA
	Mr T Eaude	Development/ Bucks
	Mr A Hilton	Surrey
	Mr J Murphy	Sussex
By invitation	Ms K Brummer	EH South Manager

The Chairman welcomed Kirsty Brummer the new EH Regional Manager to her first meeting.

**Apologies for absence**

290 Mr N Chilton, Mrs K Daffey, Ms C Putt, Mr M Umney.

**Minutes of the Previous meeting**

291 The Minutes were AGREED.

**Matters arising**

- a) Minute 267 – RCC Discussion Paper

292 Dr Wrench said there had been a good quality response to the paper and its conclusions had now been passed to the Board for further consideration.

- b) Minute 279 – JRPC nominations

293 Mr Eaude said he had discussed Council's decision with EH and the minute included the slightly amended version agreed with EH. Council asked its representatives on the Single System Implementation Group to ensure that policy was developed nationally and that it was consistently applied across JRPCs.

- c) Minute 285 – Kent junior girls

294 Mrs Marlow said Kent had now confirmed its wish for its girls to participate in the South County championship competitions. Kent Under 14 and 15 would participate from next season.

d) Minute 287 – Technical officials

295 Mr Gawley stressed that the shortage of technical officials was becoming desperate. Ms Brummer suggested that the Youth Panel members could be introduced to the role in the context of the South minis.

**Hon Treasurer's Report**

296 Mr Taylor introduced his report.

297 The surplus for the year to date was £4,657. Affiliation fees were still to be received from Berkshire, Middlesex and Sussex. The Income was adversely affected by the heavy reduction in the amount of bank interest due to falling rates.

298 Expenditure so far this year was more or less in line with expectations; there was a further small increase in the Insurance premium. There would be a cost for the new website. There could be additional costs for the Men's and Women's Indoor tournaments as these accounts were not yet closed.

299 The Income and Expenditure Account showed retained surplus of £30,569. This surplus could be affected by the final outcome of this year's JRPCs and Tier1 competitions.

300 The Balance Sheet continued to show a healthy position with total assets of £92,832 of which £57,263 was ring fenced to be used only for the designated purpose of each Fund.

301 Mr Eaude suggested that the time had come to use the ring fenced funds, particularly the inherited funds. He said the coaching fund could be used any appropriate non-facility expenditure.

302 The Hon Treasurer's report was NOTED.

**Regional Disciplinary Administrator's Report**

303 Mr Strudwick updated his report that had been circulated.

304 There had been 60 red cards issued to players of clubs in the South; this figure included two red cards issued in EHL matches. The number of Red Card offences was showing a rise over the last two seasons and there were still some weeks left of the current season.

305 There had been thirteen MMOs and Disrepute charges. The majority had been for umpire abuse after the final whistle had been blown; they appeared to represent all ages since both female and male players had been found guilty.

306 Mr Strudwick drew attention to several matters. Out of the above totals two Red Cards, one MMO and one Disrepute Charge were given in one game to British Airways players. One of the disrepute charges related to the use of Facebook . There was evidence that the player concerned was not responsible for the entry. Consideration of the matter was ongoing although the RDAs were of view that the player was at fault by permitting access to his page. The disrepute offence against Eastcote Simbas had resulted in the club disbanding the side concerned.

307 Mr Rea asked about the cards and the MMO given to school boys. Mr Strudwick said the schools had been supportive; in one case the school had stopped the boy going on an overseas tour. The disrepute offence was still under investigation as there was substantial contrary evidence and it appeared that the umpire might have exaggerated in his report.

308 Mr Strudwick said that considering the number of appointments made throughout the region the number of Red Cards issued was still quite small. However it was important that clubs, who had been very supportive on all suspensions handed out by the CDAs, made sure that their players continued to respect whoever was blowing the whistle. Dr Wrench drew attention to the SCHUA report which noted that its members had this season so far issued 461 yellow cards and 6 reds to the men and 87 yellows and 1 red to the women.

309 Mr Strudwick emphasised the worrying aspect of the increasing number of MMOs and disrepute charges being brought for verbal abuse. Hopefully the clubs and counties would be able to reverse this current trend.

310 Council REAFFIRMED its view that verbal abuse of umpires either during or after a match must be rooted out; CDAs should impose a minimum penalty of 30 days for such offences.

311 Mr Strudwick's report was NOTED.

### **Umpires' Report**

312 Mrs Daffey had circulated a report.

313 James O'Hara would be standing down as SCHUA President after five years in the post.

314 The Association had so far made 1160 umpiring appointments to friendlies, league, cup, junior and indoor events with 97 umpires. 90 umpires had been assessed and 115 umpire coaching appointments made with 159 coachings achieved. This meant that half of the umpires had been coached twice.

315 The number of umpires available for the women's programme was causing concern. The Association had at the previous league AGM advised that it would be necessary for the League to invoke the League rule that all participating clubs in Div 1 and 2 would have to nominate an appropriately qualified umpire into the pool for appointments from season 2010/11. The Association had been reluctant to do this but with the lack of umpires coming through from the Counties the only other option would be able to appoint to Div 1 only.

316 Ms Tierney said the League expected clubs to be proactive in the matter and it would be a subject for discussion at the next League AGM. Dr Wrench said the rate of decline in the number of umpires coming forward for the Level 2 in the women's programme had increased following the amalgamation of associations. He suggested that the problem lay in part at county level where both leagues and county HUAs. More prominence needed to be given to independent appointments in the women's programme at top county level.

317 Mrs Daffey's report said that the Indoor season had been very successful with even more umpires coming forward and progressing to the National league. This success was a double edged sword. In the intensive indoor period there were not enough umpires/umpire coaches and umpire managers for both the Indoor programme and the need to meet the Outdoor requirements.

318 The Association had asked the outdoor league committees to look at their league dates so that their games are not played during the indoor season. This affected the men more than the women. Mrs Marlow commented that the doubling of the junior indoor competitions programme by EH had not helped.

319 The report from SCHUA was NOTED.

### **Report of Development Working Group**

320 The minutes of the 18 January meeting had been circulated. The next meeting would be on 25 March.

321 Mr Eaude said that three JRPC coordinators had been confirmed; Eastleigh – Heather Windhurst; Tonbridge - Andy Rogers; Oxford -Trena Partridge.

322 There were number of important issues which needed both local and national consideration. The structure around JRPCs needed further consideration to avoid too great a reliance on one individual. There needed to be two out of three CCCs in attendance at each JRPC session plus the goalkeeper coach. EH needed to confirm the lead CCC much earlier.

323 Everything was still rather late and as a consequence important deadlines were not easily met or were missed. It was to be hoped that with Melissa Bennett now in post and responsible for the single system at EH the situation would improve.

324 Advice to counties on JRPC nominations would come out in April. The advert for coaches had gone out with a closing date of 6 April.

325 The Northwood centre was a potential issue; it needed to get a better balance of nominations from the South. This could affect the Oxford centre in particular as it was a more logical for many Middlesex and some Bucks even possibly Surrey players to attend Northwood.

326 Mr Hilton said the cut off of an April date for nominations may be too early as JACs could still be running in May. Surrey had probably under nominated last season. Mr Beer suggested that centre coaches should already be preparing their recommendations rather than leaving everything to the last minute. Mr Eaude recognised that some counties had a stronger base and this should be reflected in the number of nominations.

327 Mr Rea asked about the Northwood location. Mr Eaude said this was a strategic issue. It meant that working through the Regional HAs organisations had its limitations. The principle that players should go to the nearest centre needed to be applied consistently across the country. The problem was that the current centre mapping did not fit the concentration of players and needed a reassessment.

328 Mrs Marlow agreed that the issue of nominations to JRPCs still needed to be dealt with. If there was a more centralised management some of the problem of which centre a player should attend might be simplified. Eastleigh would remain a problematic centre financially if 'West' players continued to be directed to less appropriate West locations.

329 Mr Eaude said he would be preparing an up date for the website.

330 Council RECORDED ITS THANKS to Mr Eaude and the Committee for the detailed and valuable work on the organisation of the JRPCs.

### **Junior Hockey**

331 Mrs Marlow said that in spite of the weather the programmes would be completed. There continued to be a problem with finding appropriately skilled umpires for highly competitive matches. Timing in the calendar remained a major issue. Mr Murphy confirmed that finding four venues in one weekend was too much for Sussex.

332 Mr Macer said the boys tried to foresee the resource problem and four of their dates were deliberately out of programme and different from the girls for this reason. Mr Beer said the dates for next year's competitions were needed as soon as possible. He noted that one date selected by EH was in the middle of the Easter holidays which did not make much sense.

333 It was noted that EH was still having problems with the independent schools regarding the nature of the competitions.

### **RCC Report**

334 Mr Ward reported on the March meeting. He was disappointed with the level of debate. The main points were:

- EH planned to visit every club over a four-year period, starting with the biggest and listening to, and advising on, problems.
- He received some support regarding his complaint about the lack of consultation with the regions or at least the RCC before the EH/EHB change of name.
- Annual returns showed a small reduction in affiliated adult teams but an increase in junior teams (or possibly of registration of those previously unregistered).
- The splitting of juniors into schools and youth separate competitions was not necessarily viewed as a success and was being reviewed.
- The club's facilities grant of some £2.5 million pounds over three years was likely to be concentrated on some dozen clubs.
- It was anticipated that the county grant for SS activity would be on time this year and at the same level. There was a possibility of a small amount for one further year.
- Further discussion between EH and the independent schools had not gone well.
- The future of indoor hockey was discussed and the difficulties appreciated as being rather more and wider than originally thought.
- EH was embarking on a survey of leagues to feed in to a yet to be set up league alignment committee. Some strong opinions were voiced.

335 Ms Tierney raised the unconstitutional, and possibly illegal, position of the proxy vote for the EH AGM. She said her researches showed both an incorrect distribution of ballot papers and a wrong allocation of voting rights. Other members confirmed inaccuracies in the distribution. It was AGREED that Dr Wrench would write to the Company Secretary expressing the Association's concerns.

**EH South Manager's Report**

336 Ms Brummer had circulated a report.

337 Louise Riddle had been appointed as the HDO covering Middlesex, Hampshire and Berkshire. It was possible that her position in the South office would not be replaced. It was the intention to look to see what resources each regional office needed rather than mirror the structure in each region. Mr Beer said it was important to consider the role of the HDO covering Oxfordshire, as the current split across regions was unsatisfactory.

338 Level 1 coaching courses were planned for April/May at Eastleigh and May at Kidlington. Members stressed the urgent need for Level 2 courses. Mr Eaude said this was appreciated but part of the problem was the availability of Level 3 caches to run the courses.

339 The South Youth Panel had held its first meeting. Its members would be used to assist in the running of the South Minis tournaments. The Chairman expressed his concern about the role of the Panel and its reporting line.

340 The South Manager's Report was NOTED.

**Masters**

341 Mrs Marlow confirmed that the South Over 40 Tournament would be held on 11 April. Trials for South Ladies Masters squads would be held at Staines.

**Date of Next Meeting**

342 24 June 2010 to be preceded by the AGM.

**Chairman**