

**Minutes of the Thirty Fourth Meeting of the Council  
held on 23 June 2011**

Present:	Mr M Ward	Chairman
	Dr N S Wrench	Vice Chairman
	Mr M Taylor	Treasurer
	Mr B Rea	President
	Mr D Browne	Management/Kent
	Mrs S Marlow	Management/Girls Youth
	Mr R Wood	SCHUA
	Mr R Macer	Boys Youth
	Mr T Eaude	Development/ Bucks
	Mr R Strudwick	RDA
	Mr M Umney	Middlesex
	Mr A Hilton	Surrey
	Mr J Murphy	Sussex
	Mr J Gawley	Vice President

**Apologies for absence**

451 Mr A Cock, Mr N Chilton, Miss S Plant. Ms F Tierney: Ms K Brammer

**Report on AGM**

452 Council congratulated Mr Rea on being appointed President. Miss Shelia Plant had been appointed as Life Vice President of the Association. There has been no nomination for the post of Hon Secretary. It was NOTED that the AGM had approved two technical amendments to paragraphs 24 and 45 of Constitution concerning the non-profit status of the Association.

**Chairman's Opening Remarks**

453 Mr Ward said he would like to record formally his thanks to Neville Wrench for time he had continued to spend acting as the Association Secretary in spite of notionally retiring from the role. The Association desperately needed someone to take on the role.

454 Mr Ward also recorded his thanks to Tony Eaude for the very detailed work he and his Development Committee had undertaken to deliver EH's single system in 2010. Mr Ward noted the success of the new integrated Junior Committee under the joint leadership of Richard Macer and Sandra Marlow.

455 Council ENDORSED the Chairman's thanks.

**Minutes of the Thirty Third Meeting**

456 There were no minutes available. Dr Wrench apologised that when he came to circulate the minutes he found the file to be corrupt and he had not had time to correct it.

**Appointments as required by Constitution**

a) Management Committee

457 The following were appointed: Mr N Chilton, Mrs S Marlow, Mr R Beer, Mr D Browne. It was AGREED that the Committee could fill the vacancy created by Mr Rea's appointment as President. It was AGREED that Mrs Marlow should approach Miss S Walker.

b) Association representative and alternate to the RCC

458 Dr N Wrench was appointed with Mr R Beer as the alternate.

c) Regional Disciplinary Administrator

459 Mr R Strudwick was appointed.

d) Hon Secretary

460 Council AUTHORISED the Management Committee to fill the vacancy for the post of Hon Secretary.

**EHB Matters and Restructure**

461 Mr Ward expressed his concern at the recent changes at EH with the removal of regional office structure and the appointment of three relationship managers. The former RDM, Ms Brammer, had been appointed to one post; the two other relationship managers covering the Association's area had yet to be appointed. In the revised structure there was no formal contact point for regional associations. Dr Wrench confirmed there had been no consultation, even with the RCC. He had written to the Chief Executive but the it had been argued that it was not possible to consult because of the employee relations aspects and possible redundancies.

462 Mr Rea said the initiative was driven in part by Sport England and the need to increase participant numbers in the sport by 2013 to protect funding. The intention was to get clubs closer to EH. Mr Rea suggested that Ms Brammer with her experience could be used as a link. The Chairman said he had established that this was not currently part of her job description.

463 Mr Murphy expressed the view that EH only seemed to need the regional and county associations when something went wrong such as collecting subscriptions.

464 Mr Eade said the removal of professional support for the regional associations and their volunteers was disappointing. He characterised the EH decision as lacking a proper rationale; it was a deplorable paper. He stressed the valuable work done by Kirsty Brammer and her team in support of the JRPC activity. The loss of this support would pose a serious threat to the ability to continue to support the project.

465 Mr Taylor said the EH appeared to lack any empathy for the volunteer base. EH seemed determined to undermine the regional structures.

466 Council CONCLUDED that there should be a robust response to EH indicating that the volunteer base was at breaking point. EH should be advised that the Association and its affiliated counties were now seriously considering whether or not to continue to participate in the single system.

### **SCHUA Report**

467 Mrs Daffey's report had been circulated. The Association had made 1082 umpire appointments including 503 in the Men's League and 356 in the SWHL, made 80 assessments and carried out 190 umpire coachings. There were 136 umpires currently active at L2 or higher and 83 young umpires. The Chairman THANKED the Umpires' Association for its work on behalf of South hockey. The report was NOTED.

### **Regional Disciplinary Administrator's Report**

468 Mr Strudwick summarised his report as 'good news'. There had been a significant reduction in the number of red cards.

469 Regrettably there had been one serious case. A player who had committed a serious stick tackle was given a yellow card by the umpire. After being subjected to a torrent of nasty verbal abuse the umpire recalled the player and presented him with a Red Card but while asking for the player's name and number he was punched in the face by the player. The player's club and County were in agreement that the player be suspended for a period of three years coupled with a further two year's suspended which would be invoked if a further Red Card were issued.

470 Mr Strudwick said that considering the number of appointments made throughout the region the number of Red Cards issued was still relatively small. It was essential that the 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. Clubs needed to ensure that MMOs and disrepute charges brought for verbal abuse were eliminated.

471 A serious disrepute case involved a coach at a school lying about the age of a player. Both the coach and player were suspended. It was important that counties reviewed their procedures to avoid this type of offence reoccurring.

472 Mr Strudwick thanked everyone in the South for their continued help and support and especially the CDAs and deputies who had given consistently fair decisions when called upon. He thanked Colin Howard for his continued support as the RDAP and his sound reasoning which ensured that the appropriate decisions were always made.

473 Mr Strudwick's report was NOTED.

### **RCC Report**

474 Dr Wrench said the Committee was clearly not functioning as originally intended. The Committee would be holding a special meeting to consider its future role

### **Junior Committee**

475 Mr Macer had circulated a full report of the work of the Committee in its first year. On reflection he felt he had been too optimistic of what might be achieved in the first year.

476 The workload on himself and Mrs Marlow had been too great to be sustained. Some further thought needed to be given to how much competition could be managed particularly regarding the schools' programmes which inevitably required midweek resources.

477 The key issues for next season would be; proper budgeting; developing the role of the youth panel; finding more volunteers; getting a calendar of events on the web site; finding appropriately skilled umpires for JAC county competition and EH tournament matches.

478 Mr Macer's report was NOTED

### **Indoor survey**

479 Dr Wrench reported on the survey of indoor competition and clubs' attitudes. The response had been very limited. His conclusions based on the responses received were:

- Indoor hockey was of limited appeal.
- Any increase in the activity should not conflict with current outdoor arrangements.
- Publicity for the South competitions could usefully be improved.

480 The Chairman thanked Dr Wrench for his report which was NOTED.

### **Veterans Report**

481 It was noted that the Association had fielded sides in all the men's regional competitions. Mr Rea said thanks were due Ian Russell and Nigel Woolven who had organised trials at several age groups. The results of the inter-regional competitions so far were: Over 40 – 2<sup>nd</sup>; Over 45 – 3<sup>rd</sup>; Over 50 - 2<sup>nd</sup>; Over 55 – 3<sup>rd</sup>; Over 60 – 1<sup>st</sup>; Over 65 – 1<sup>st</sup>.

482 For the women the results were Over 40 – 3<sup>rd</sup>; Over 45 – 1<sup>st</sup>.

483 It was reported that the proposed merger of the London and Wessex masters leagues had not gone ahead.

### **Development Committee**

484 Mr Eaude reviewed the work leading up to this year's JRPC activity.

485 The new on-line registration system was working quite well but the real test would come when data transfer between levels was needed. The number of coaches and managers was slightly light. He was concerned at the overall staff structure particularly the implications for the budgets. The Oxford CCC had only just been notified.

486 The last six weeks had been very difficult with too many late nominations. The link with East had worked well in particular that with Martin Williams. It had been necessary to make late adjustments. The system deadlines must be reviewed so that this was unnecessary or at least kept to the absolute minimum.

487 The locations of the venues continued to be a problem. Eastleigh must go as its hinterland was too small. Northwood was too close to Oxford.

488 The removal of the EH network office was a disaster as more, not less, support was needed. There was nothing in Ms Brammer's new job description that required her to give professional assistance to the JRPC process. Mr Eaude stressed that he was unsure how much longer the process would be manageable because of the workload. It would be necessary to increase the number of paid roles and it was unreasonable to expect volunteers to supervise.

489 The system was heavily reliant on two or three people. They were volunteers supervising an increased number of paid coaches, managers and administrators. EH must recognise the structural problems the single system had created. There was an urgent need of a full in depth review of the structural and operational aspects of the single system.

490 Mr Eaude confirmed that he would stand down at the end of 2012 cycle.

491 The Chairman thanked Mr Eaude for his very clear report . Council RECORDED ITS THANKS to Mr Eaude, Mrs Marlow and Mr Macer for their work on the JRPCs.

**Any other business**

492 Mr Murphy expressed the need for representational competition at U21 level. Mr Browne said Kent would support this. Mr Hilton agreed that the present cut off at U18 was too soon and he would support certainly U19 hockey.

493 The Chairman said that the competitions at the U21 age group had been removed from the calendar at regional and national level because of lack of interest. There was however no reason why counties should not establish inter county matches should they so wish.

**Date of Next Meetings**

494 17 November 2011, 8 March 2012 and 21 June 2012 following AGM.