



Notes of the Executive Meeting held on 03 July 2008 at St Asaph

Present

Jon Upton, Anneka O'Connor, Martyn Evans, Mark Davies, Ian Wright, Matt Pritchard, Matt James, Jeff Hodgkinson and John Beattie

Apologies

Mary Bainbridge, David Siddorn, Lee Ible, Maggie Smith, Rob Williams, Adrain Bennett, Michael Kaiser and Robin Bayliss

1. Notes of the Meeting held on 10 April 08

Confirmed.

2. Matters Arising.

A fine has been charged to Wrexham H.C for not playing in the European Finals in Cardiff. Martyn Evans has given reasons for Wrexham H.C unable to representative a team from the North.

- No accommodation in Cardiff for players and their families, nearest accommodation was in Aberystwyth due to Heineken cup.
- Shortage of players, due to being may bank holiday weekend.
- Cup games were late and gave players little time to organise for European finals.

The committee sympathises with Wrexham H.C and understands their reasoning, but are also aware this gives a bad image for North Wales hockey. If the format of next years final is to change, this may prevent any future problems. **(AP: - Wait for Wrexham H.C to hear off WHU)**

3. Financial Report

With £1000 of Sports match Cymru successfully received, the current balance is £3022.95, this means that the region will be able to plan for the future in a secure financial position.

4. Priorities 2008/09

4.1 Junior Tournaments

Similar structure to 2007/08 tournaments and to be hosted by clubs on a monthly basis. Invite clubs close to the border in the Cheshire area. Use the same formatting regarding to letters and information and keeping the cost of entry to £160. Invite to be sent out end of July beginning August. Invoice pitch hire to Jon Upton. **(AP: - Need list of equipment needed for tournament to use in conjunction with Sports match funding)**

U'11s

Make into a formal, competitive league with trophy inviting English teams such as Deeside Ramblers, Chester and other border clubs. To be run on alternative months with the U'13s tournament, same basis as 2007/08.

U'13's

Kept as a develop competition and to be run on alternative months with the U'11s tournaments, same basis as 2007/08.

U'15's

Set up two U'15s club tournaments on free weekends in the North Wales League fixture list.

4.2 Age Group – Appointment of Coaches

No coaches appointed, possible candidates; Sion Evans, Steve Edwards, Wyn Pritchard, Andy Hughes, Rhys Price and Craig Williams.

(AP: - Clubs to give feedback after first committee meeting with any club members interested in regional coaching or management)

As an incentive to recruit coaches we will pay towards their level two coaching qualifications if they coach for 2 years, to help with their own personal development and to encourage coaches to get involved with regional age groups.

(AP: - Fixtures to be organised and confirmed against the South, Shropshire and Wirral and trials dates to be advertised within the North Wales clubs)

4.3 Strengthen North Wales League

The Executive Committee agreed that one of the major priorities of the North Wales region over the next three to five years was to strengthen the North Wales League. The ultimate aim was to have a competitive, adult league played on Saturdays, alongside a Development League played on Sundays. However, it was recognised that this may be difficult to achieve. It was noted that the North West league might be restructuring in the near future and this may encourage North Wales teams to enter back into the league. It was noted that all Welsh teams participating in the North West League were required to have a team in the North Wales League as a condition of entry. Clubs should be mindful of this when discussing their league entries on a year by year basis.

It was hoped that the continued development of the junior league structure would naturally lead to the strengthening of the North Wales League as they progressed through the age groups. The entry of new junior teams into the junior leagues was a welcome move and may encourage other clubs to prioritise North Wales competitions over English ones.

The Committee was delighted to note that Denbigh had re-formed and would participate in the North Wales League next season. In terms of new clubs, the region's major development priority was in the North West: Anglesey, Caernarfon and Porthmadog were areas mentioned.

One further way of enhancing the profile of the North Wales League would be to get representatives from all clubs to attend meetings. One suggestion was to fine clubs £20 for not attending the AGM in the first instance with the possibility of fining clubs for not attending Executive Committee meetings in the future.

4.4 Other Areas of Development

Revamp or rules/regulations

(AP: - Jon Upton to review rules/regulations for AGM 2009)

Marketing Strategy – review of existing provision

(AP: - Need to advertise Welsh Hockey)

Give any information to Matt James about junior hockey in the area to put up on the Welsh Hockey Website.

Clubs to contact local papers and daily post about results and match reports to allow society to be aware that hockey is being played in their local area especially with the nations cup being played in Newi next year. North Wales needs to raise people's awareness about the sport by advertising on line or local papers.

(AP: - Matt Pritchard to speak with Mike from the Daily Post and to contact BBC Wales on the Website)

Communication with clubs – digest of information

Develop communication with clubs via emails and attending meetings, clubs to share their views and ways of developing/ improving hockey in Wales.

Responsibility for area of development:

- Age groups
- Database of players
- Administration
- Volunteers
- Youth Activate
- Work with 5x60 officers and Dragon Sport clubs.

5 Budget 2008/09

Budget £3000, highlight the costs of using facilities, entry requirements and equipment and allow clubs to view this information to help have an understanding of charging clubs to enter competitions,

6 Sportsmatch Funding –Obligations

Before April 2009 need to report back to SCW with an invoice on how the funding has been spent, we are looking into two key areas; coach education and child development. Funding will be used for the following:

- Press release with SCW and committee
- Pitch hire for junior tournaments
- Umpire level 1 and 2 courses
- Match balls
- Marketing
- League co-ordinators
- GK equipment
- Clubs advertising coaching sessions.

7 Role of RDOs

Lee Ible has been appointed NE Wales Hockey Development officer. He will start in post on July 28th.

Aled Jones (URDD/WHU Hockey Project Manager) is making good process in Anglesey & Snowdonia. He has already secured Sports match funding to launch a schools league in Anglesey.
(AP: - Clubs to discuss what help they want to receive from the RDOs)

8 Euro Nations Trophy 2009 – call for help

(AP: - Develop a sub committee Matt James to speak to Chris Brewer regarding the roles needed for the Euro Nations trophy.)

9 Other Business

9.1 Level One Umpiring Courses

It was noted any enquiries about the availability of Level One Umpiring courses should contact Mary Bainbridge. **AP: - Ian Wright to attend an umpiring assessor's course)**

9.2 WHU Report

- All 3 PDC in North Wales have been successful, hoping to increase age group up to U'17s.
- PDC in Aberystwyth to be develop.
- RAF sponsorship secure for another 3 years has been increased from £6k to £8k. Therefore money received for regional will be doubled.
- Wrexham Summer camps to be advertised within local clubs, only 14 places have been filled so far.
- Funding is available for clubs who propose a plan with expenditure for club development days from the WHU.
- Proposed plan to move RAF development days from the Valleys to Rydal High School.

- Youth Finals Cup to be moved to Swansea/Newi and rotated annually instead of using Newtown as a central point. **(AP: - To be discuss at club committee meetings and report back to Matt James)**

10 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 11 September 2008. St Asaph. 7.30 start.