

MINUTES OF WEST HOCKEY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 21 JULY 2020, COMMENCING AT 7PM  
VIA GOTOMEETING

- 1 PRESENT: Keith Dingle, President; Jan Baker, Vice President (part); David Chard, Vice President; Julie Morrish, Women's League; Sandra Wickham, Somerset and Taunton Vale; Alison Cook, Herefordshire; Verity Langfield, EH; Caroline Baynes, Wilts; Barbara Reynolds, EH; Glayne Price, Cornwall; David Chard, Devon; Val Shipsey, Hon Treasurer/Avon; Ian Harvey), Glos (part); Lynne Nash, Notetaker.

APOLOGIES: George Conner; Liz Powell.

- 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2020

Amendment: Item 1 - Apologies: To delete reference to Terry Cook.

The minutes had been circulated and were taken as read. There being no other amendments, the minutes were agreed as correct.

- 3 MATTERS ARISING

Item 5 - Secretary's Report: It was clarified that up-to-date details of County (Chairs, Secretaries, Treasurers and County Reps) personnel are required for inclusion in West database. Glayne Price added that this is required within Constitution and should ensure emails reach correct destinations.

- 4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER AOB: Sub-Committee financial accounts.

- 5 TREASURER UPDATE:

**AGREED ACTION: Val Shipsey had volunteered to take up role of Honorary Treasurer. There were no objections.**

- 6 SETTING OF HONORARIA 2020/2021

Honoraria agreed as follows:-

Independent Examiner of WHAC Accounts:	£100 p.a.
Hon Secretary:	£750 p.a.
Hon Treasurer:	£750 p.a.
Notetaker:	£45 per meeting minuted
Competitions:	£1,600 p.a. (NB, Indoor/Outdoor)

- 7 WEST TRANSITION GROUP

Following County Chairs meeting, West have set up a working group (West Transition Group). This currently includes EH Relationship Managers, Keith

Dingle, Jan Baker, David Chard and George Conner. There will also be six separate small working groups feeding into the West Transition Group - Umpiring, Competitions, Leagues, Player Pathways, Discipline and Masters.

David Elworthy of EH has agreed to run a presentation showing 'Vision for Umpiring' on 3<sup>rd</sup> August - currently 187 intending to attend. The presentation will show aims of this initiative but will have to be delivered locally.

Following presentation, volunteers will be sought to sit on the Umpiring Transition Group.

EH AGM is to be held on 15 September 2020. Limited companies can hold AGMs virtually because of law change.

It was stressed the intention is to make Transition Group transparent. It will be clear who sits on Committees and notes of what is discussed made available, probably via Google Drive (the West website not being particularly user friendly).

## 8 RETURN TO PLAY

EH document circulated widely for comment. Feedback awaited before final version created.

RCC had discussed today. EH require permission from Cabinet Office to return to play. It is hoped 'signing-off' will not be too long. Main issue is likely to be pitch availability - will vary enormously, particularly relating to use of school and university pitches. EH will be contacting schools at some point to establish how things are going. Clubs will have to follow the process to suit their own particular circumstances.

Mention was also made regarding insurance for people participating, particularly clauses for pandemics, this will probably come out as part of Participation Agreement. EH are thinking they will roll out before anybody can play. Barbara Reynolds indicated there is some good guidance on EH website re insurance.

There is also the question of how close in proximity people are when playing hockey which can be comparatively short. It was thought that travel to and from games and use of facilities is more likely to present an issue.

## 9 COMMUNICATION

### EH Website

Currently under construction. To include room for regions/areas (less clear about counties). As there is no clarity about when this will be available there is no point

in looking at procuring an improved West website until situation with EH website is clearer.

### Twitter

Some discussion in County Chairs meeting. Twitter might be a useful media through which to encourage younger volunteers. Mention was also made of Instagram and Facebook. Such media needs to be used responsibly. These could all be linked to websites which would provide additional information.

Comment was made that Bath Buccs have sought to improve communications by using Twitter. A person has been engaged to do this on their behalf for £100 per month but the meeting felt this was not appropriate without further consideration. There was some general discussion around how Twitter can best be used to cover the extensive geographical area covered by West Hockey, eg, whether paying someone a regular fee would represent value for money. There will be a lot of information to communicate within the next 6-12 months. Decision will need to be made as to whether West Hockey engages in Twitter and who will make it work for us - do we need to find a volunteer? Need to be clear about how, when and why.

Some feeling Twitter might work well in the short term (ie, current news), but possibly less useful in longer term.

Keith Dingle also mentioned documents could be shared using Google Drive or similar if necessary.

**AGREED ACTION: To set up a small group to consider future means of establishing media communication. To comprise Caroline Baynes, Gayne Price, David Chard, George Conner. Report to KD within 3 weeks.**

David Chard requested information regarding Website as his daughter is an IT consultant.

## 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sub-Committee Accounts: As indicated at AGM, Charles Hallows still awaiting some end of year financial accounts from Men's League, Women's League and Umpires in order that WHAC Accounts must be filed within the legal time scale. Alison Cook offered to follow up with Men's League. As West Umpires do not currently have a Chairperson or Treasurer in post Keith Dingle intends to attend next meeting. He would also seek to speak with Andy Pring re accounts.

RCC Update: Looking for nominations for a female Vice President to take post from March 2021. If anyone knows of a likely volunteer, please let Keith know.

Meeting finished at 7.57pm.

LCN/26.07.20

