

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

West HA report for GHA Committee meeting on Wednesday 18th November 2020

The most recent West HA Council Meeting was held on 12th November with good representation from all of the West Region Counties. Zoom meetings seem to be very successful for getting more people together.

There were reports across the various areas of activity including Performance, League and Umpiring. A brief summary of each element is set out below.

Transition Groups in support of the new Governance structure.

The Communications working group reported that a strategy paper had been published, but they were waiting on the other groups to define what content would be appropriate. No further work will be done until this is available and the direction being taken by EH over their website and similar was clear.

The Transition Group reported that Articles of Association for EH and the Areas (replacing Regions) had been drafted (Caroline Baynes working for EH had led this) and legal advice sought. The first draft of the EH Articles had been reviewed and the final proposed version sent to the EH Board for approval. The changes included in these being the adoption of electronic voting for the long term, how to manage member resolutions and the setting up of the Areas. The Articles for the Areas have also been looked at and these will be available to the Transition Group w/c 16th November. One key aspect will be the establishment of a new representative committee of Areas.

The Leagues discussions have begun, but a schedule for the activities remains to be defined.

The Umpiring Group reported that they now had 30 people involved. They were looking at ratifying the League regulations on umpiring and the terms of reference for umpires. A National Officiating Group had been set up and surveys were being circulated to clubs and individual umpires to get views on the way ahead.

Competitions reported they were waiting for EH to define the framework.

Discipline reported so far there had been no activity.

Masters are in the process of forming a working group.

General Topics

Treasurer reported that the affiliation fees were being received though Devon and Cornwall were outstanding.

There had been a meeting of the existing RCC (Regional Consultative Committee) which was dominated by the governance topic. There had also been an update on the EH IT programme, apparently EH had been doing a due diligence activity on the existing competitions system so that they could seek a replacement using proven technology.

Disciplinary report was that there had been 3 red cards and 1 disrepute offence.

Competitions reported that Indoor had been cancelled and all outdoor competitions scheduled before Christmas similarly.

Umpires there was not much happening with the lockdown.

Leagues were having a nightmare with an ever changing situation.

Performance centre reported that documents relating to the Talent Development proposed new system had been received for review, but these were not to be circulated until the review was complete. In the meantime Keith Dingle the West President had spoken to Ed Carney and Heather Burrows and they had agreed to attend a West PC meeting, with an open mind.

The only county report received had come from Cornwall.

The EH report came from Barbara Reynolds, the club affiliation had been delayed to start on 13th or 16th November and there was no closing date defined. In the Pro-League the fixtures against Germany had been postponed due to the German team not being allowed to travel. There had been some suggestions that EH were indicating that junior hockey should not be played, but this was not the case. EH were lobbying for funding to made available by the government to leisure centres and similar to ensure they would survive Covid-19 lockdown and the facilities not be lost. EH were lobbying the government also that hockey was safe as there was no evidence for transmission on the pitch, perhaps only through travel and were hoping that hockey would be back on pitch in January.

Ian Harvey