

ENGLISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the English National Ice Hockey League Meeting

Saturday 10th June 2006 – Notts County Football Ground

Present: Rob Laidler (Chair), Jackie Mason (Secretary), Andy Clarkson (Fixtures Secretary – South), Andy Worship (Discipline) Irene Jones (E.I.H.A. Director), Sue Tomalin (Registration Secretary), Basingstoke, Billingham, Cardiff, Flintshire, Grimsby, Haringey, Invicta, Kingston, Lee Valley, Milton Keynes, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Peterborough, Romford, Sheffield, Solent, Streatham, Swindon, Whitley Bay.

Absent: Bracknell, Bradford

Apologies: None received

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Proposed – Flintshire, seconded – Haringey.

Chairman's Report

Rob Laidler introduced himself and the league management committee. The league is managed by a small group of voluntary personnel; Rob Laidler (Chair), Jackie Mason (Secretary), Geoff Hemmermann (Northern Fixtures Secretary), Andy Clarkson (Southern Fixtures Secretary), Andy Worship (Discipline), Sue Tomalin (Registration Secretary) and Malcolm Preen (Statistician).

The meeting this year is important – it is to agree the rules by which the league will be run. RL said that any changes suggested after the meeting to today's agreements would simply be not allowed.

Sponsorship

RL said that two offers of league sponsorship were in the pipeline, however, the two sponsors were offering very different deals and very different conditions. Pauline Buchanan Black (Streatham) was concerned that nothing had progressed as far as the sponsorship went, but was reassured by Mohammed Ashraff that the talks were ongoing. He had met with the sponsors and a package was available to both the EPIHL and the ENIHL. Any sponsorship would go into the E.I.H.A. central fund. The sponsor would want a page advert in each club's programme, the league to be called after the company and two sets of family tickets per game. In return the clubs would receive a sum. RL asked the floor if they were happy for the talks with the sponsors to continue – it was agreed unanimously.

Southern and Northern ENIHL Meetings – 10th and 11th December 2006

The minutes of the Southern meeting were agreed as a true record – proposed Solent, seconded – Peterborough.

The minutes of the Northern meeting were agreed as a true record – proposed Billingham, seconded - Flintshire.

League Management Report

Copies of the report had been sent to all clubs prior to the meeting. RL went through the main points.

- It had been a hard season and things had not gone quite to plan. This must be improved in 2006/2007.
- There will not be any changes in what is agreed at to-day's meeting – the decisions made to-day are what the league will work by.
- One issue this year was over a game not played. The home team were asked to pay the cost of travel for the away team. Teams do not have the resources to do this and so it is hoped that in future anything of this sort can be agreed amicably.

- Where a game cannot be re-played the team that has done nothing wrong will be awarded the game 5-0. If there is no blame by either team the game will be given as either a 0-0 draw and each team will be awarded 1 point or the game will be void and neither team will receive any points.

Congratulations

Congratulations were passed to both Billingham and Invicta on their successes this season.

Fixture Secretary's Report

AC asked clubs to be very careful about changing fixtures as it takes considerable time to move games around to accommodate any changes.

Statistician's Report

MP asked that each club ensures that game sheets arrive on time to enable him to keep the results and stats up to date. It is very important that all clubs telephone the results to MP as soon as possible after each game.

Discipline

AW is taking over as discipline secretary. All communications will be done by email. It is the responsibility of each club to keep their own records, but AW may be contacted to confirm. He will not be involved in any decisions re Basingstoke.

Registrations

ST asked that every club provide her with a fax number to enable her to communicate with the clubs. The cards this year will have photographs and holograms. ST will not issue any registration packs until she has received the signed registration form from the clubs' registration secretary. Each secretary should read the changes carefully to ensure that they comply with the changes.

Other Points Discussed

- RL said that it is appreciated by everyone the effort that the clubs put in. It is sometime easy to appear dominant when things go wrong. All clubs have the right to appeal to Ken Taggart. This is a domestic league and league games take priority over challenge or cup games.
- RL thanked everyone for their input this season but stressed that the league must move towards the idea of getting things done on time.

Refereeing

- MA said that the biggest change as far as fees for the referees would be an increase in mileage from 300-400 maximum claim. This was due to the geography of teams joining the league.
- The referees would not be responsible for checking the cards this would now be the responsibility of each team manager. Any player playing up must have a duplicate licence. Teams were concerned that if a club played an unregistered player then no-one on the ice would be insured.
- It was asked if a web page could be put up for each team to show who was registered for each team.
- Clubs were also concerned that if a player did not have a card what could they do about it if the team insisted on playing the player. ST said the clubs must sort this out between them. MP said that all players were checked when he received the game sheet and that anyone playing an unregistered player would forfeit the game. ST said to work on the basis of no card or fax authority from her would mean that a player must not play.

- MA said that zero tolerance was being introduced this season. If two players fight the gloves must come off but the helmet must stay on for safety reasons. If both parties are willing combatants then the player throwing the first punch will receive a match penalty.
- Referees will also watch for goading especially from younger players.
- MA stated that once the players drop to the floor the fight must cease.

Financial Report

Copies of the EIHHL and the E.I.H.A. accounts had been distributed before the meeting. No points were raised.

Applications For League Membership

Applications had been received from Grimsby and Bradford (Northern section) and Romford and Swindon (Southern section).

Streatham asked what the quality of the new teams would be and could they assure the clubs that they would not be poaching from other clubs in order to make their team. This assurance was given.

It was agreed unanimously that the four teams join the ENIHL. The teams must write to Irene Jones for affiliation to the league and to the E.I.H.A.

Format and Structure of the League

There would be no adjustments this year and the boundaries of each conference would remain the same.

South	North
Basingstoke	Billingham
Bracknell	Blackburn
Cardiff	Bradford
Haringey	Flintshire
Invicta	Grimsby
Lee Valley	Kingston
Milton Keynes	Newcastle
Oxford	Nottingham
Peterborough	Sheffield
Romford	Whitley Bay
Solent	
Streatham	
Swindon	

Report From Ken Taggart

- The new rule book would be available during August 2006.
- The new interpretation of rules would be available on line within a few weeks and KT suggested that every club downloads it and makes sure that the relevant personnel are conversant with it. There will be far more penalties this season and the emphasis on enforcing the rules will be much stronger.
- The minutes of the meeting should be out within 2 – 3 weeks of the meeting.

Rules Of Competition

- The league will run from the 9th September 2006 to the 25th February 2007.
- A vote was put forward for a National Cup; this was defeated by 9 against and 8 for. The cup will therefore be run again as regional with the two finalists from each region playing off on a home and away basis.

South	North
Haringey	Flintshire
Milton Keynes	Sheffield
Peterborough	Kingston
Invicta	Blackburn

- The cup final will be over the weekends of the 21st and 22nd April and the 28th and 29th April 2007
- The EPIHL Playoff Finals will be at Coventry on the weekend of the 14th and 15th April 2007 along with the EPIHL playoff final.
- Clubs may arrange challenge games but the league takes priority.
- There will be a fee of £25 for each fixture change.

Players' Eligibility

- Any player who has signed by the 31st January 2007 will qualify to play in the play offs. If a player over 19 plays up more than 3 times then on the 4th he will be deemed to play for the higher league and will not be allowed to play down. This will be carefully monitored. This rule does not apply to any player that is under 19, nor does it apply to netminders of any age.
- Each team will be allowed to register as many non E.I.H.A. players as they choose, HOWEVER only two may dress for each game and only one is allowed on the ice at any one time.
- The cost of ITC cards is being reviewed. At over £700 this is thought as exceptionally high. There may be a two tier fee introduced. The movement of labour within the EU is the justification for the high administrative charge.

Sportsmanship Award

This was presented to Billingham in the north and Solent in the south. RL congratulated both teams.

With there being no other business RL thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.