

**Minutes of the Junior Section Annual Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> June 2006 held at Notts  
County Football Club**

1. **Welcome** - Bob thanked everyone for attending. 2 clubs will be fined for non attendance - Isle of Wight and Whitley Bay.  
Thanks also to Kingston Arena and the Council for their help and support of the Conference tournament, to Ice Sheffield and Sheffield Club for their help and support with the National Finals, and also to everyone who helped out in any way.
2. **Apologies** received from Isle of Wight.
3. **Last year's minutes** were adopted by Haringey and seconded by Telford.
4. **Youth Management Chairman's Report** – please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised.
5. **EIHA Financial Director's Report** - please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised.
6. **Coaching Programme Report** - please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised.
7. **North Report** - please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised.
8. **Midlands Report** - please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised.
9. **South East Report** - please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised.
10. **South West Report** - please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised.
11. **Statistician Report** - please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised. Well done & thanks to those who do the stats for their input.
12. **Fixtures Report SE & SW** - please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised.
13. **Registration Report** - please see the report sent to clubs. No questions raised.
14. **Indication of League Teams 2006-2007** - please see the report sent to clubs. Clubs now need to send back their forms as soon as possible so that the fixtures and leagues can be sorted. Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> July 2006.
15. **Notification of Practice Times Junior England Teams** – please see the e mail sent out. This is to advise clubs of practice sessions, so they are aware in advance of players' commitments.

16. **Proposal – League Format Change** – see proposal sent out to clubs.  
Various questions were raised

**Q)** Does this structure mean that Div 2 players can play for Div A teams as there is not a split? **A)** No – the present set up will not change.

**Q)** What will stop players transferring from 1 team to another as they do now? **A)** Nothing.

**Concern** - What message does it send to ‘weaker’ teams if they are to be pitted against ‘stronger’ teams under this proposal?

**Concern** - Some Div 2 Development players could get injured especially at the older age groups if they play against stronger, faster teams. **A)** This system allows for the ‘weaker’ teams to have at least part of the season playing against similar ability teams.

**Q)** How many games would the new proposal mean? **A)** Variable – depending on the number of teams who ‘buy into’ the system.

**Concern** – Some clubs are at the mercy of the council, rink manager etc. and therefore may not have sufficient ice slots after Xmas to accommodate the new structure. **A)** This would have to be looked at if it becomes a problem.

**Q)** Do the people who suggested this want to retain the National Finals? **A)** Yes.

**Concern** – There were 97 fixture changes and 19 games awarded 5-0 this season. The introduction of this new system could have a major impact on this.

**Point to Note** – This seems like a good way of making teams play more games pre Xmas rather than pushing fixtures to the end of the season.

**Concern** – Malcolm Preen – Unsure about the practicalities – How would the league be split? How would fixtures fit in? How would it then be split again? He can foresee problems in fitting in all the games.

**Concern** – Several Finnish players / parents playing in Bristol already feel the British system is too physical for inexperienced players. Americans playing out of Bristol think a ‘mercy’ rule should be set where once a score reaches a set level the score is not then added to and the rest of the game is played as a challenge match. **A)** If the coach is genuine they can police high scoring games.

**Q)** – Geoff Hemmerman – Can all clubs find the required amount of ice time to accommodate this proposal in each time period. Possibly looking at 24-30 slots pre Xmas and same number after. Some clubs struggle to find enough ice time now. **A)** Oxford stressed the system can be flexible.

**Q)** Will the new structure affect both North & South? **A)** Proposed by South – suggestion that South trial it. Needs to be trialled for 2 seasons.

**Point to note** – some clubs feel money spent on play off games this season will be a waste if this system comes in. **A)** Point noted but changes have to be introduced somewhere along the line.

**Point to note** – If trialled then it should only be at certain age groups – Noted, but the vote has to be on the proposal as tabled.

**Vote taken** – 9 for and 20 against.

Oxford asked for the proposal to be amended so that the system could be trialled in the South at certain age groups. Board agreed but only if all clubs in favour. Not all clubs in favour therefore not possible to amend.

17. **Proposal – national promotion of Ice Hockey & recruitment** – This was discussed and ratified at the main AGM – please see minutes of that meeting.

18. **Proposal – re-introduction of Goal Judges and Goal Keeper Stats** – see proposal sent out – Originally proposed and seconded to remove these last year at the AGM due to 75% of the stats being inaccurate. Malcolm Preen suggested all stats be abolished. Suggestion that goal judges be re-introduced but not stats. Rita Mackriell made the point that as a statistician game due to lack of education. The problem is that not everyone knows how to fill details in correctly, and often youngsters are used. Malcolm Preen said that any sheets not filled in correctly would be recorded as not completed. Suggestion was made that home & away team each provide goal judge. Ash brought up the point that Billingham goal judge case has so far cost the EIHA £47K. Sometimes goal judges are intimidated and ‘bullied’ into recording incorrect stats, and sometimes net minder parents fill in the sheets and exaggerate the number of shots. The point was made that if these are re-introduced then **1) The Goal Judge must be over 18 and 2) Must be registered and insured. Q) Can proposal be changed? A) No, must vote as is.**

**Vote taken** – 23 for 6 against. Carried. All clubs to note and ensure the above stipulations are followed strictly.

**Any other Business**

**Question re Insurance** – Can EIHA arrange cover for off ice officials? **A)**

Neville Moralee – Clubs must have 6 off ice officials who will be registered. Fee £5. If they are ill then providing their replacement **IS WRITTEN ON THE GAMESHEET** they will be covered.

Bob advised that a director will attend all junior meetings next year, providing they are advised of locations, dates and times.

He once again thanked everyone for their input. Without you people who make the effort our sport wouldn't survive.

**Meeting closed at 2.45pm.**