

WOMENS SECTION MEETING 11TH June 206

Committee Members present

Geoff Hemmerman (GH)
Hilary Jenkins (HJ)
Jacqueline Pye (JP)
Anna Walters (AW)
Sally Taylor (ST)
Kim Sutton (KS)
Apologies for Sylvian Clifford

Apologies received for Billingham

Missing teams Whitley
Oxford University
Cambridge University

Geoff Hemmerman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Billingham who had suffered a car accident on the way to the AGM.

Peterborough requested that last years minutes (Item 16) be amended to state they went reluctantly into the North. The minutes of the last AGM were then accepted by Peterborough and seconded by Coventry.

There were no matters arising from last years minutes.

Chairmans Report

GH stated that there were some changes to the usual meeting format – one being that last years minutes and all reports had already been circulated.

GH added that it was imperative that if the Club and/or team contact changes we must be informed.

GH stated that the Chairmans Cup had been renamed and a new trophy bought- now to be called The Bill Britton Memorial Trophy.

Statisticians Report

Malcolm Preen stated that the Womens Forum was borrowing his stats which was not allowed as they were copyrighted. Therefore he will not circulate stats unless it was requested of him.

Referees Report

Match Fees are up by 2%

Mileage is now 40p per mile

Match Fees

A vote was taken between the Premier teams to ascertain if they wished to pay the extra fees and retain the officials that had been allocated during the past season or for reduced fees pay the same as D1 the vote was tied 5/5 GH to make final decision (outside the meeting GH confirmed all match fees would be charged at D1 rates.

There are new In House rules –

Fighting. Fights have reached an unacceptable level. If 2 players want to fight then they should drop their gloves and each will get 2+2. If only one wants to fight the instigator will get a match penalty. If the fight drops to the floor (ie: the fighting players fall to the ice), at that point the players are expected to part straight away. If the fight continues there will be an instant suspension = game + Match Penalty. There will be strict penalties for fighting. Check the Referees report for further clarification.

New Rule Book. Available on the web site.

If you obstruct a player in anyway there will be a penalty. Refs will be instructed to “See it – Call it”.

Leg tapping is not allowed.

There is a video available from America explaining body checking and contact rules for women. All referees will see a copy and a DVD will be available.

The perfect game sheet is under construction by Malcolm Preen and Ash.

Flintshire asked for clarification of “obstruction”: Down to the intent of the player. As soon as contact is made a penalty will be called. Can’t pin going forward on the boards.

Ash hoped that some refs would be available to attend training sessions, dependant on whereabouts and times. Send your request to the League Secretary to be passed onto Ash.

Looking to develop more female officials. Contact via the website.

Helmet changes – half visor must cover the nose.

Matching uniforms: Helmet/Gloves/Shorts/Shirts/Sox – this rule will come in 2007/08. Ash invited floor to approach Committee if they are not happy with the rule changes. Zips are allowed but have to be closed. Goalie skates with spikes are illegal.

Bracknell Asked if the 5 min break rule was rescinded. Ash advised breaks can be as long as you like.

Face off Times. Games MUST start on time. When giving your face off time to the fixtures secretary don’t include your warm up time. As posted times will be taken as face off times. If running back to back games refs should understand that if the first game started late then subsequent games will also start late.

Flintshire asked why is midweek face off 8pm but not on Sundays? Ash argued that senior mens games play lots midweek and he has trouble finding refs for these games. So Sunday face offs 6.45.

Financial Report

GH stated that Neville Moralee report was available at the main AGM. ST to contact for copies.

England U16 School of Excellence

GH pointed out the boards with the pictures and write ups on from the SOX. GH stated to get the school up and running was a major achievement and no negative report had been received. Girls behaved well and played excellently. Working towards giving the girls the same opportunities as the boys and we are working towards an elite GB team. Te SOX days were full of hockey and from those that attended the U16 England squad was picked.

14-21 August both U16 and Senior teams are traveling to Prague for a tournament. Including 4 days training. 2 days exhibition games and a 2 day tournament. It will be subsidized by the EIHA but all players will have to contribute towards it.

Coventry stated how excellent they thought the SOX was. There was a folder produced by the SOX coaching team and each player had a copy, giving their stats.

The Womens England squad will be picked after the North/South game in June

Malcolm Preen asked for clarification on the U16 age group. The squads will be for this season only, as many will be moving age groups, therefore the selection process will be starting again next season.

Rob Wheeler sated that the junior teams are not giving the South the names of the junior players. Val Wilkinson is to give ST a list of all the names of all registered junior players- so it will at least be a starting point for contact.

New Fees

GH stated that junior girls currently pay 4.00 towards the England setup from their registration fees. It was proposed to increase the Womens registration to bring them in line as only 2.00 of their fees go towards England. So 52.00 registration fees was proposed. Vote on the extra 2.00 – 19 teams for. Proposed Newcastle seconded Slough.

The England South set up was given permission to sell England merchandise at mens games.

Invicta asked what direction can over 16's work towards in respect to a SOX for them. GH advised they can look towards the GB U18 squad. GH stated that he didn't think there would be an England U19 team. Just U16 and Senior.

GB – IHUK are mirroring the mens setup with Welsh and Scottish players not playing for England. It is expected for them to have their own National set ups.

Sportsmanship Awards

Premier League: Flintshire

Southern Division 1 League: Milton Keynes

Northern Division 1 League Whitley bay

Rules of Competition

There has never been a senior league without rules of competition before. 98% of the rules are in place already and the women play to them, but now they are in writing. GH asked the floor if they had any issues.

Sheffield asked about teams not turning up for fixtures. GH pointed them to paragraph 1. Acceptable reasons for not turning up. GH will not fine a team for not turning up if the reason is reasonable for non-attendance.

Invicta asked about minimum squads on the bench.

Peterborough stated there would be more forfeited games as the fine is cheaper than traveling.

Flintshire stated that teams will not have enough players and will fold. That's not developing the women.

It was stated that 32 games would have been awarded during the season for not enough players on the bench.

GH advised that he couldn't tell junior clubs to release their players to the Womens squad – junior were always registered to the junior set up and not as women players. It was unfair for young girls to have extra pressure on them on game days to make a decision of which team to play for.

Sheffield asked for dispensation for D1 teams.

Telford said young players don't travel due to late fixtures.

Invicta said it wasn't in the spirit of the game. We are trying to encourage women to play hockey – these rules are not doing that.

Slough stated women are always at the bottom of the ice allocation pile.

GH advised U16 boys from Whitley face off in Flintshire at 6.15 on a Sunday.

11 on the bench is a new rule. 12 to register a team is not a new rule, it has always been a rule.

Registrations – junior girls can be included in the final numbers of 12+1 or 32 players for clubs with 2 teams.

Bison stated that this will impact on at least half the teams in the league. It contravenes the equal opportunities act as it will not impact on the mens teams in the same way. It also contravened the EIHA equal opportunities policy. Can we have a compromise and implement in 2 or 3 years time so the teams can find more players.

GH stated that if we accept 12 registered players he would take the 11 on the bench back to the board. HJ said that the 11 would impact on the D1 teams more than the premier.

Coventry backed the Bison on the discrimination points. Bring in the 11 over a period of time. Lots of teams are still building their squads. How many teams had access to junior players as they are the future – it takes time to bring them into the womens game.

GH said there are too many teams and not enough players. There should be 22 on a bench not 8 or 9.

Invicta asked what if a team wanted to play 8 or 9.

GH you must encourage more players to play.

MP said at Chelmsford they dressed player's mums and their kids parents in the summer and gained 6 or 7 new players for the womens team.

Flintshire We had 26 players 13 just left. What happens if players leave mid season. If you drop out of the league you can't play for 2 years.

GH open to discussion.

Ken Taggart joined the meeting

He explained that they are trying to tighten up on clubs having B teams but not enough players. So therefore fore-fitting games. There is not enough ice around for the number of teams. The juniors are playing games into June which is not good for play offs etc. Also upsetting the rec teams as traditionally they play in the summer. 12 to register a team has always been a rule. If you have problems with 1 player less then talk to GH.

11 for a game talk to GH – every game for dispensation.

KT stated that there were 419 female registered players, 6500 male players of which 4500 were juniors.

KT stated that 11 on the bench would be reviewed next year but major recruitment must be done to up the number of female players to avoid this being an issue the season after next.

Invicta suggested documenting what teams are doing to recruit new players and present to the Committee next year.

MP to email GH if teams have less than 11 on a game sheet.

GH advised the dispensation must be managed. ST to issue a form to be completed if not enough players for a game. Players not there and reasons why to be posted with the green game sheet.

Fixtures

Deadline dates are 1st August to make sure your fixtures secretary has your home game dates.

HJ said that the Division 1 teams were not so good with changing their dates this season. Some teams lost all their ice to the senior men and had to play games all at one end of the season.

AW said that on the whole the premier were quite good this season.

Both secretaries asked for the dates that teams could NOT make to be with their game dates.

Alan Moutroy – Coaching joined the meeting

He stated that womens hockey is different to mens in the respect of rules/physical abilities/relationships between players and coaches especially if the coach is a different gender. On the 19th August there will be a womens workshop in Solihull. Details are on the coaching website.

Dual Registrations

Tightening up so players are not registered in one League with one club and a different League with another club. This really affects U19 and Junior female players.

This year any dispensation received previously needs to be re-applied for, and it is not guaranteed that you will receive it.

Female juniors with no womens club at their own rink can play elsewhere for a womens team. If their rink has a D1 team they can apply for dispensation to play Premier. If they play D1 or Premier and they have a corresponding team at their own rink dispensation will not be given. A letter from the home club giving their permission for the player to play elsewhere, a letter will also be required from the other club asking the player to play.

As a junior female player you still require a letter from your junior club if you play womens hockey at a different club.

Bracknell asked if they could play players from other clubs in their development team as they didn't get ice at their home clubs. GH they will have to register for Bracknell to play for Bracknell. The players can still train with you but would have to play at their home clubs.

Bracknell asked was there a need for this rule. GH said there needs to be consistency across the Leagues.

Lesley Ellis asked about the Romford girls registering as there were 2 groups there representing Romford. The girls were happy to play and pay their way. GH says if the team has enough players and ice then their application would be considered. If it was late GH would still consider it the same as any other application.

Bracknell New Team

Bracknell said they have 28 in their squad. GH asked how many are from other clubs.

Bracknell said 18 new to hockey, 4 junior players, 7 from other clubs. The new team would be under the Queen Bees umbrella. GH advised 2 teams you would need 32 players.

Kim Sutton asked if the U21 players would be able to play for the Queen Bees. Bracknell hoped they would. GH advised to keep Premier and D1 separate. Bracknell agreed and GH gave permission for the second team at Bracknell.

MP raised issue of more teams more ice required at more costs to travel.

Lesley Ellis asked about the Basingstoke Buffaloes ice scheduling. GH says the cup is played regionally for ENIHL teams and they have had 2 requested in the South from Swindon and Romford.

Structure of Womens League

Peterborough requested to move South, as they were bullied by KT to move North last year. GH advised not this year, put in a formal request for next year.

North – 8 teams

South – 11 teams including the new Bracknell team – FIRE BEES

Game Lengths

GH advised we are all looking for game ice that isn't available. For example we wanted to play 3 x 20 for all games at the Trophy weekend but the ice wasn't available. Discussion need to take place within all clubs to negotiate available ice. When submitting fixtures to HJ or AW state what your game lengths will be. I.e: 3 x 15 or 3 x 20.

Nottingham requested clarification on a problem they had this season. One game was played at 3 x 15 due to a rink problem. GH advised no problem to play one game at a different length but no switching as and when you feel like it. He needs to know the issues behind such situations so the correct decisions can be made.

MP requested that game lengths be stated on game sheets.

Invicta stated they were surprised to be playing 20 min periods at other rinks as they themselves cannot. Can D1 be 3 x 15 across the board. GH advised no.

Teams still need dispensation to play 3 x 15 at the beginning of the season.

HJ said all teams should play 3 x 20 but cannot due to lack of ice. Referees are not allowed to sate the game period lengths.

Rule on running clock – if teams are running out of time due to over running previous games or rink problems beyond their control – the first period should be a running clock and not the last. It must be evident at the start of the game that time is running low. The 2 coaches and the ref should get together before the game to discuss the way forward.

MP stated that the rule interpretation was that only the first period should be a running clock.

Knock Out Cup

Cardiff will not take part

Streatham A and B will not take part

Bison

Bracknell Prem

Blackburn

Guildford

Milton Keynes

Nottingham

Kingston

Oxford City

Peterborough

Romford

Sheffield

Solihull

Newcastle

Swindon

Telford

Sheffield B

Coventry

The draw – 1st home 2nd away

1st round

Newcastle v Nottingham

2nd round

Swindon v Kingston

Bracknell v Sheffield B

Telford v Romford

Peterborough v Sheffield A

Bison v Oxford City

Milton Keynes v Solihull

Blackburn v Coventry

Guildford v winner of 1st round game

Romford Nighthawks

GH advised that the EIHA had sent documents to their Solicitors and therefore no comments could be made on this subject.

Proposals

Peterborough want seniors to have summer licences the same as juniors.

Only new juniors can have summer licences. Seniors have insurance only

Invicta asked about Sportsmatch. It's currently not linked to Sport England but it's supposed to be.

MIP – wanted restructure of League and wanted a working group on it. GH said send ideas to him. Premier structure works. MP stated potential D1 problems. GH advised Manchester to open soon would help North D1 League.

Coventry said that if Peterborough go south then they want to. GH advised no.

General discussion on recruiting new players, outcome was to visit general skating sessions and recruit new players there, at least they have an interest in skating. Develop better relation between the womens and junior teams within a club. GH has an U10 presentation which might be of help. More communication between womens clubs coaches and the junior coaches. Bracknell also suggested looking at roller games for players.

Teams that have not sent in their cheques for the Trophy Weekend yet are:

Basingstoke

Blackburn

Billingham

Cambridge University

Coventry - paid cash at meeting

Flintshire
Oxford City Zodiacs
Solihull
Telford

Some teams advised they had sent cheques. ST not rec'd please see if cashed and if not re-send.

GH concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. Stating that this was the teams/clubs opportunity to speak up and have your say or make suggestions.