

## **ENGLISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION COMPANY LIMITED** **YOUTH MANAGEMENT MEETING 8<sup>TH</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

Minutes of meeting of EIHA Youth Management Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the Tankersley Manor Hotel, Barnsley

**Present:** Rita MacKriel, Val Wilkinson, Bob Wilkinson, Geoff Hemmerman, Ken Taggart, Irene Jones (up to Conference Tournament), Tony Lack, Carol-Ann Watt, Barbara Brown, Steve Taylor, Neville Moralee, Liz Moralee (minutes), Mohammed Ashraff, Charles Dacres, Sandra Annetts, David Hurn, Jayne Bowns (from Fixtures / Game Sheets on).

**Apologies:** Paul Haywood, Rob Laidler, Roger Bates, Jacqueline Pye, CJ Boxill, Pauline Rost, Andy French, Allison Taylor. **JB** sent apologies for the first day.

### **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

**RM** said she hoped the others would bear with her at her first meeting as chair. She knows she is on a learning curve and is still leaning on **BW** and **VW**. She will take advice where she does not know the answer. She thanked everyone for coming, and introduced **BB** and **SA** as this was the first time they had attended a YMC meeting. With some Conferences not represented, it would not be possible to make any major decisions.

### **FLINTSHIRE U16 – R MACKRIEL / G HEMMERMAN**

Flintshire U16s have appealed against being placed in Div 1. **GH** said when the league applications came in for Div 1 North, Blackburn and Flintshire applied for Div 2. As they finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Div 1 last season, he considers they are Div 1 teams. Also as Sutton and Manchester are entering teams for the first time in Div 2, having Blackburn and Flintshire in Div 2 would give an 11-team division. Solihull turned down the chance to play in Div 1, saying they were not good enough. This meant there were no playoffs and the bottom Div 1 team were relegated. After he spoke to Blackburn about the situation they withdrew their team. They say they are withdrawing due to lack of ability, not numbers. He has said he will help them arrange challenges if they want. **TL** also needs to know whether Oxford will remain in Div 2.

**VW** was working on Flintshire's registrations when she had a phone call asking her not to process them until there was a decision on which division they would play in, as parents could be angry and want their money back. She sent the paperwork back. **GH** said he would look at the situation when there were more players registered (if most of them were registered last season there should not be a problem about playing in Div 1). Flintshire (and other clubs) have lost players to Manchester. They are presumably worried about heavy defeats. **IJ** said Flintshire want confirmation in writing that they are allowed to remove the team from Div 1, and an email is legally binding. Lynton Crosby was asking at the Manager course what was going to happen about the U16s. Flintshire were unhappy about a communication problem, although they had not provided contact details.

It was generally felt that the promotion and relegation procedures should be adhered to. **GH** said the YMC should consider informing teams that which league they are put in is related to where they finished last season, and that if they win Div 2 they need to go up to Div 1. He thinks teams who are so worried about safety that they drop out of Div 1 should withdraw from league hockey and play only challenges. Div 2 games tend to be more physical than Div 1 as players do not know how to check properly. There are added complications when Div 1 teams ask to be in Div 2; in this case if Flintshire are in Div 1 Blackburn need to be as well. Some teams are preferring to forfeit games they could have played. Div 2 varies in standard every year as more clubs are entering second teams. **GH** suggested saying there will always be 8 Div 1 teams, and if a team drop out of Div 1 they may enter Div 2 the following season.

*It was decided that **GH** should write to Flintshire saying they will be in Div 1, but if they do not want to take part they should drop out, and they will be supported if they do this.*

## **JUNIOR RULES OF COMPETITION – R MACKRIEL**

The rules of competition were drafted last year. **GH** said they should specify that the division a team plays in depends on where they finished the previous season. This will be added, but the rules will allow for the possibility of leagues being rearranged. Also they do not include automatic relegation.

While teams should provide their fixture dates by the first weekend in August, often they will not be able to do this due to factors beyond their control. To reschedule a game due to having 3 players on international duty, the players need to be in that age group, not younger ones playing up. It is very rare for any one team to have 3 players selected for a national team. While awarding unplayed games 5 – 0 has been controversial (although 5 – 0 forfeits are in accordance with IIHF rules), it was felt necessary to continue doing this, as otherwise many games will never be played. It is important to avoid a repeat of a situation where one team gained crucial points by refusing to play a game. There is more ice time available since the latest face-off time was changed at a Board meeting. Last season many games were awarded 5 – 0. Cardiff U19s were promoted as a result of being awarded a game in this way. Allowances will not be made for teams whose rinks are not yet built, as this has proved unfeasible. **MA** suggested docking points of teams who repeatedly fail to turn up for games. However they have already lost points by forfeiting the game. If a team pull out of a game at short notice they lose it 5 – 0, are fined £50, and have to pay the officials' game fee and any costs the home team have receipts for. Where a team claim to be ill there is no choice but to take their word. There is usually a pattern when teams are reluctant to travel. **GH** suggested a sliding scale of fines for when a team forfeits a game with a weak excuse such as having no coach. Increasing transfer fees has succeeded in decreasing the number of transfers. A £100 fine is still cheaper than paying for a bus. **ST** said clubs do not care about fines as their money comes from the parents, so if the aim is to punish the club they should be docked points as a fine will only prove to punish the parents in rising subscription fees. **CW** said the players want to play, and it is the parents who often do not want to travel.

**MA** spoke about when heavy fines were introduced before for forfeiting games, and there was much opposition because fining clubs, who already had limited funds, was not in the best interest of the clubs or the sport. A £50 fine is standard. Most thought this was too controversial an issue to make a decision on at a time when some Conferences were not represented. The Board could decide, but there would not then be the possibility of appeal to the Board. **NM** said it is too late in the year to make changes such as this, when clubs have already signed up to the leagues. Most teams do not know what will happen if they fail to turn up for a game. The issue will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

The passage on game length will include U18s.

Teams should carry two sets of shirts in case of a clash, but if there is a clash it is the home team who need to change. **MA** said if there is a clash the offending team forfeit the game 5 – 0. The away team should contact the home team manager beforehand. The home team should be expected to have alternative strips at the rink in case the away team forget to bring theirs. Teams can also turn their shirts inside out. If the visiting team turn up with light shirts it is a 5 – 0 forfeit, but the game should go ahead as a challenge. If the home team choose to change into dark shirts, there is no need for a forfeit. The problem with this is that they can choose not to change, which means they can claim the points. One team always played in black and said they had no other shirts, but when they were threatened with forfeiting the game they quickly produced light shirts.

## **UNDER 10 UPDATE – V WILKINSON / R MACKRIEL**

The planned meeting about the future of U10 hockey was cancelled because there was the possibility that the age group would be changed to U11 at the AGM. After the AGM, plans to reschedule the meeting fell through as only three people could attend. **VW** was annoyed at having to cancel the room, and she will not try to arrange it again until she knows people will come. It is now too late to change regulations for this season. 9 teams are short of U10 players. If they have 16 players they are likely to have at least one missing for any game. **GH**

thinks all the North clubs will have enough players soon. **CW** expects the South West clubs will too. **TL** asked Oxford whether they were entering a team, and received no reply, so assumed they were not. Teams need the required number by the beginning of the season. If a team do not have enough players they will forfeit the game 5 – 0, but it will go ahead as a challenge. **TL** said in the South they are playing cross-ice from September but trying to avoid having league games before November. This should enable teams to find enough players for the league. For cross-ice **GH** is allowing teams to fill in their own dates, and has been encouraged by the response. In July players do not necessarily know whether they are going to carry on. **GH** said until the fixture list is finished there is nothing to stop more teams joining the league.

*It was decided that **VW** should make a final attempt to arrange the meeting in January, when there is a clearer view of the situation. Each Conference will be represented by their chair and secretary and two others. The fixture secretaries and one of the Coaching Programme committee will also be invited.*

**BW** said after the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress there will be a meeting in the Midlands about the U10 jamborees to celebrate the centenaries of hockey in the UK and the IIHF. He and **NM** will be the IHUK directors in charge of the project. For the EIHA **RM** will be in overall charge, and **DH** will also be involved. The aim is to have at least 100 players at each of the three jamborees. All the players will receive a pin badge, a medal and a t-shirt. He asked everyone to try to find sponsors. He is open to suggestions about venues, but they need to have a whole day free on a Saturday or Sunday. Ideally all three jamborees will be on 1<sup>st</sup> March, starting at the same time, but this might not be feasible.

For their centenary the IIHF are planning a worldwide Skills Challenge. GB are keen to participate. As IHUK have only very recently received the information there has been little discussion on it, but it will be on the agenda for their next board meeting. There are 5 tests for out-players and 3 for goalkeepers. Results are posted on a website, where nations can compare each other's performances. Participants may be aged up to 15, and may do the tests as many times as they want before 29<sup>th</sup> February. Each participating nation will find a boy and girl winner. It is a very exciting opportunity for these players, who will take part in a skills camp in Quebec, in a trip which includes visiting the World Championships and cultural events. More information on the competition will be published after the Semi-Annual Congress. The IIHF are supplying certificates, videos and tape measures. They intend the competition to have various benefits including enabling nations to track players, analyse coaches' performance, and work out their own programmes' strengths and weaknesses. It will mean putting some trust in the clubs. **BW** is considering bringing someone in from abroad to do the final assessment, to avoid any accusations of bias. It is important to give everyone throughout the UK a chance, but obviously younger players will not be fast enough. The Conference chairs should be left to make the arrangements. Gary Apsley will be asked to be overall coordinator. The tests will be done by region to begin with. Players will be whittled down to a maximum of 3 per Conference. Then there should be a practice where the top 10 are selected. He hopes to be able to make a presentation to all the top 10. **ST** asked if a GB coach could have a session with the winners; **BW** will ask about this.

### **CHILD PROTECTION - C DACRES**

David Nield from the CRB came earlier that day for a meeting. He said the failure rate for CRB forms was c. 42%. Obviously if there are problems the forms are sent back, which means delays. There are 17 countersignatories he wishes to contact. **CD** will distribute David Nield's presentation and guidance notes, and go through this with the regional child protection officers. The biggest problems are with Section C of the form. If someone enters a title other than Mr or Miss the CRB assume they have had another name, so if they do not enter a surname at birth the form is sent back. The countersignatory needs to check if any of the documents show middle names which do not appear on the form. Sometimes countersignatories forget to enter their countersignatory number, or enter the organisation number instead. A high proportion of errors are from people with few forms to sign, as they

are not in the habit of checking properly. There are now more documents which may be used for checking, as shown on the CRB website. This is helpful for people who do not receive bills in their name. Numbers such as on the driving licence help with verification. **CW** said she is only now realising some of the problems with the forms, and the recent training session run by **CD** made all the difference. Since then the number of errors has gone down, but it still needs further reduction. The CRB are close to saying that the EIHA may have only 1 or 2 countersignatories. David Nield however suggested that the regional child protection officers should check and countersign the forms, after the club countersignatories have signed to say they have checked the documents. **CD** intends to reduce the number of countersignatories to himself, the regional child protection officers, **LM** and a few others. There was concern about regional child protection officers having to take responsibility for countersigning the form when they have not seen the documents. **CD** said he had discussed this with David Nield, and they agreed that it should be up to the club child protection officer to check the documents. It will need to be made clear to clubs that they are responsible for checking, and the regional child protection officer is only doing the final signature.

The online child protection course will go live shortly. This will ensure that everyone in the EIHA will have the opportunity for child protection training. **CD** is looking to have this made mandatory. He will give a demonstration to everyone over the weekend if he can sort out Wi-Fi access. Central administration will be able to access information on who is doing the course, who has passed, and how long it took them. It will probably be **LM** who deals with this. People will be able to check with her about students' progress. There were questions about whether people will be able to do the course in place of someone else. Everyone who needs to do the training will be contacted with a security number and password. When they pass they will have a certificate printed out with date and time. The system will send them a reminder in three years when they need to renew their qualification. The course will count as a workshop for coaches to keep their qualifications up to date.

**CW** asked if parents are allowed to go into the dressing room to help U10s who have difficulty changing. If they are not allowed in they are sometimes furious. The best solution is to have the player do most of the changing outside the dressing room.

### **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT – D HURN**

**CD** explained that there was felt to be a need for a code of conduct for players because players should be expected to be disciplined and uphold standards, but there are many problems of bad behaviour on and off the ice. Coaches are often unsure how to handle it, and are worried about being seen as heavy-handed or accused of discrimination. Internet abuse is a major issue, especially when it incites violence on the ice. The Code of Conduct for Coaches has an addition to cover misdemeanours not mentioned elsewhere. The Player Code of Conduct would be subject to continual review. Some clubs already have their own Code of Conduct. In many cases this is longer than the proposed EIHA one, to deal with issues relevant to them. **GH** said Kingston JIHC's code of conduct for players solved some problems but created others. He said the main problems of behaviour are fighting, flouting rules and damaging property, and these should be the club's responsibility. It would often be difficult to decide when a player should be sanctioned for breaching the Code of Conduct. The disciplinary committee are unlikely to want to deal with this. **CD** said this is different from regular discipline, and suggested having a separate group to deal with it. **DH** said there is a degree of flexibility. There was concern that issuing the Code of Conduct is giving the YMC too much involvement in club problems, and putting the onus on them to police off-ice behaviour over which the parents and the club should be expected to take action. Many clubs hate enforcing discipline and would much prefer to pass it on to the YMC. Even acknowledging the issues is risky. **MA** said if there is a breach of the Code of Conduct, an EIHA officer or committee could rubber-stamp the outcome, and there should be a proviso that the EIHA can apply a suitable sanction if the club do not. **CD** said the issue could simply be sent back to the club. It must be made clear that the Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines, not rules, and clubs may use it in their own way. **VW** said there should be a similar document for clubs. **NM** said the Code of Conduct provides a good basis, and gives backing to clubs

since the players have signed to say they will keep to it. **KT** is willing to inform players when they are not going to be allowed to re-register due to bad behaviour. The government are planning a hockey programme for young offenders, as they think hockey very suitable for this.

Pt 3: The last sentence needs rewording as the player will not pay the fine directly, but should reimburse the club. **GH** said the rest of the section is unnecessary.

Pt 6 does not duplicate Pt 4, as Pt 6 is specifically about rinks while Pt 4 is about other property e.g. buses, coaches' equipment, other players' gear. If a player is sent to the dressing room an adult should go with them. The Level 1 coach can do this while the Level 2 coach remains with the team.

Pt 9: **GH** agreed with the emphasis on education, but thought this point should be taken out as he suspected it could be used to justify protests such as over late face-off times with school the next day, which affects Conference and England teams as well as clubs. **MA** pointed out that having players on the ice late at night is not contrary to any legislation. **CD** reported that there had been two calls from the CPSU about children missing school after playing hockey the previous night. **VW** said this should be the parents' responsibility. **GH** has found allowing face-offs at 7.30 almost doubled the number of ice slots. The 7.30 games are on Saturdays and so do not interfere with school. **CD** spoke about a coach travelling from Blackburn to coach at Bradford who has quit his college course over these commitments, and asked if it is responsible to let him continue in this way. It is important to make clear to players and parents what is expected, as for example Steve Farman has been doing with the England U13s. It is also important for everyone to be setting a good example. **GH** said people generally know best practice, but sometimes, as with late face-offs, there is a lot of difference between best practice and what is feasible. He suggested rewording the point to say players should keep a balance between education and hockey.

If all players have to sign the Code of Conduct, the club will need to keep the signed copies as the players only send a form to **VW** the first time they register. She suggested that instead of the EIHA having a Code of Conduct for players, they should provide a template, but insist on clubs having their own and request a copy. **DH** said there should be consistency of codes of conduct. **VW** however said what suits one club does not always suit another. It is however important to cover issues which might be passed on to the YMC to deal with. Some thought the Code of Conduct should go out to clubs for comment, but **DH** thought this would take too long. It is the minimum of what clubs should include, but it would be possible to take out one or two controversial points. Swindon, Bracknell and Bradford will distribute their codes of conduct. **DH** will reword the Code of Conduct for the next meeting.

### **FIXTURES / GAME SHEETS – G HEMMERMAN / T LACK / R MACKRIEL**

**GH** said there have been some fixture changes and a few problems, but nothing major. **TL** has had minor issues, including clubs sending him ice slots they do not have. He has not needed to make any changes for about a week. Andy French wants the U18s to be aware that he started work on their fixtures early on, and the delays were a result of the EIHL fixtures being issued later than planned. Some officials have queried U18 game length: it is 3 x 20 mins.

**RM** is still doing the U12 stats. There are likely to be many games with no stats recorded. (The score is still recorded, it is only the individual players' stats which are affected.) Malcolm Preen has informed clubs that both teams must now sign the gamesheet, but often this does not happen. The coaches still need to sign the sheet before the game. There are often mistakes on the shots on goal sheets. People are not accustomed to starting the count at 0. **JB** has found people are having difficulties understanding the instructions. Gamesheets may be faxed to Malcolm Preen, which avoids late gamesheet problems. At the moment the gamesheets still need to be posted as well, but Malcolm Preen is hoping that this can be dispensed with next season. **BW** said it is easier to fill in the gamesheet electronically and email it. The shots on goal sheet and teamlist could be scanned in or sent as a PDF file.

### **NORTHERN CONFERENCE REPORT**

**GH** said there is not much to report apart from issues with Flintshire. He is pleased that there are more U10 teams in the North than ever before.

### **MIDLANDS CONFERENCE REPORT – J BOWNS**

There was a Conference team trial on 8<sup>th</sup> September, and more dates have been set. There have been problems over obtaining transfer forms for players. One club asked **JB** about poaching players, and she said it is a breach of the Code of Conduct for Coaches; the coach was not happy at this response. Players of course have freedom of choice, and some clubs even encourage their talented players to join other clubs where they will receive better help to develop.

Solihull have sent an email asking about the minimum number of players for an U18 team. It is the same as for the younger age groups. Since the minimum number rules were announced more players have appeared, and now only one team is likely to be short of players. Solihull are saying that if there had been the same rule at the start of the season they would have had enough players to enter two teams. However to enter two teams they would need at least 16 players in each.

### **SOUTH EAST CONFERENCE REPORT**

The South East officers had not sent a report or asked for any issues to be discussed.

### **SOUTH WEST CONFERENCE REPORT – C-A WATT**

See attached report. The South West are trying to avoid having Conference coaches coaching their own child's team. Everyone thought having a specialist goalie coach for the Conference was an excellent idea. They will introduce **SA** to their team staff so they will know who to talk to if there are any child protection issues.

**CW** said there is still a lot of discontent about 14-year-olds not being allowed to play up. Some parents are saying this is discrimination, since very young players can play up in the U12s, and they are citing different rules in other European countries. **BW** said the IIHF insist on players being at least 15 before they can play in the U18 World Championships. **CW** said World Championships are different from club hockey. No one had detailed knowledge of club rules in other countries. It was pointed out that the EIHA needed to change the rules for child protection reasons, and child protection issues and legislation vary a great deal between countries. **CD** can find no way around the problem. **CW** said a player is still the same height and weight on their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday as when they were 14. However hockey around the world works by ages. **GH** asked if a player who is playing in more than two age groups, and for Conference and England teams, can be paying enough attention to their education. The IIHF have already been consulted; the age limits are in their Bylaws. If the IIHF receive any correspondence from the UK it is passed on to **BW** as IHUK chairman.

### **COACHING PROGRAMME – S TAYLOR**

**ST** is reviewing plans for education and mentoring. He will give a presentation at the next YMC meeting.

**JB** said Sheffield are finding people have to wait a long time for courses, because they have games every weekend. Once it turned out the course finished before the players would have needed to set off for the game. The accelerated Level 1 where players can pass Level 1 by taking the written exam is available only to top players, e.g. EIHL and GB Seniors. It was pointed out that courses have been run frequently, including over the summer. If players are keen to start coaching they need to make choices, and clubs should support them if they take a weekend out from playing. **LM** will ask about the possibility of running courses in the evenings.

**CD** asked if there are any plans for another National Seminar. Feedback from it has been very good. **ST** said the National Seminar was a big success and he is keen to have more events like it, but is not looking at holding another next year.

## **REFEREE IN CHIEF REPORT – M ASHRAFF**

Following a risk assessment, from this season onwards officials aged 11-12 may officiate U10 games, 13-14 U12 games, 15-16 U14 games, and 17+ U16 and above. They have taken advice from the RFU and FA. Everyone is pleased that all the young officials are being allowed to continue, however some of the officials are unhappy about the changes.

### **i) Removal of junior challenge game fees**

Fees were supposed to deter clubs from arranging challenge games at very short notice. Now however it is more important to encourage clubs to play challenges. Telford have a lot of challenge games, otherwise few clubs in the North have more than 4 per season. It is similar in the South, except there are many challenges in May. **BW** said fees should be dropped for U10 challenges. For challenges, in an emergency a coach may referee the game. If a Conference team want to play a league team they still need to have the game approved and pay the fee. League teams say they should not have to do this as they are doing the Conference team a favour, although they are keen to host Conference teams as they want the gate money. **MA** said the YMC should refer to previous debates on the subject. Conference games are often late at night. For challenges against teams in other associations including SIHL the fees are the same, although it is different paperwork. **NM** did not think dropping challenge game fees would have a major effect on finances. It is still important to have challenges approved by the fixture secretary, to safeguard the clubs. Challenge game fees should continue for international challenges, which involve more work for fixture secretaries. *It was decided to stop charging challenge game fees for domestic challenges at U18 and below.*

### **ii) Costs for Season**

The 2007/8 match fees are now on the website.

## **OFF-ICE OFFICIAL COURSES – R MACKRIEL**

Clive Moore has sent **RM** the course material, and she has the IIHF off-ice official handbook. Malcolm Preen has provided very detailed instructions on gamesheets. As **BW** explained, when the first off-ice official courses were run, the plan was for the people who had been on the course to train the others. Organising courses has proved difficult, and there is considerable cost involved. **MA** has been considering plans for training at each rink, which would not only be easier to organise but also probably have better attendance. This would be run by the off-ice officials for senior games, who have more to deal with and so should be the best, plus a local referee. Gamesheets are by far the most problematic issue with the off-ice officials. The course would also need to cover referee signals, and such matters as when to stop the clock. Although few club secretaries deal with gamesheets, most clubs have someone who is knowledgeable about them.

*The idea will be taken back to the clubs. **RM** will go through the course material and update where necessary. **MA** will then put together a training pack for clubs.*

## **SECRETARY COURSE UPDATE – B WILKINSON**

**RM, VW, JB** and **GH** are making good progress with the Club Secretary course. They feel there is great need for a course like this as there is currently no education for club secretaries. New secretaries often have little idea of what the role involves, and unfortunately sometimes their predecessor does not pass information on. It would be useful for registration secretaries to go on the course as well. Other club officers might also benefit from attending, since many change roles after they have joined the committee.

There will be one course in the North/Midlands (most likely Sheffield) and one in the South (the Southern clubs to decide on the most suitable venue), on consecutive weekends. They have not yet worked out the duration of the course. It will cover an outline of the role, EIHA structure, registration paperwork, CRB checks and challenge game procedures. The course will include going through some of the forms. These are not hard to understand, but often secretaries send the wrong ones in, which means delays for the players. There have been a

number of problems recently which could have been avoided if clubs had followed procedures, for example, three players who went to play abroad without clearance from IHUK came back and found they could not play until they obtained an ITC.

### **CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT – G HEMMERMAN**

**GH** is negotiating costs with Hull Arena. Some of their invoices from the 2007 tournament are still to be resolved. These include £2k for supplementary security, which he thinks he will be able to negotiate down. The Board are not too concerned about making a loss on the Conference Tournament as it is so important for development, but consider it best to continue putting the hosting out to tender. Discussions are being held with other rinks, and iceSheffield are very keen to host the tournament. Most rinks would charge a prohibitive amount. In the past when the YMC have researched venues for the tournament, very few were interested because the hours are so long. As people are travelling from Scotland it should not be further south than Nottingham. Parents have been canvassed about it: they want the tournament to stay at Hull, where they particularly like the bar and Saturday night party.

**BW** reported that the tournament lost £6k, which did not include the late invoices from Hull Arena or £4k in team subsidies. **GH** said team managers should be trying hard to find sponsorship. In about two weeks he will send packs out to Conferences for sending out to parents. Including the Scotland U11s means more revenue. The tombola, programmes etc made c. £1.3k. **RM** thought the tombola was quieter than in previous years. **BW** said programmes also do not sell as well as they used to. He said it is important to look at costs, especially as he does not want to make major price increases. 2008 will be the first year for the new shirts, so logos will stay on the shirts for the next three years. Anyone who wants their logo on shirts should contact **GH**. £50 was thought to be good value for a half-page advertisement in the programme, especially as people all over the country see it. It was agreed to bring back spaces in the programme where people can pay to post good luck messages. A message board at the tournament would also be possible. The website has more hits over that weekend than at any other time, so this would be a good opportunity for advertising. The Ice Media package was a success. **GH** will ask them if they could do one for the whole tournament.

**ST** asked if SIHL make any financial contribution, since they derive great benefit from taking part in the Conference Tournament. It was explained that if SIHL are asked to contribute financially they will want a lot of say in running the tournament. **BW** is often asked by Scots why the Conference Tournament is not run by IHUK; he tells them that it was originally set up for the benefit of England teams, and the Scottish teams are there by invitation. He feels it is unreasonable of them to complain when in some years SIHL have turned down the invitation. **KT** has told SIHL that if they are not happy they should run their own tournament. When they tried this it was not a success, so the following year they asked to have the Scottish teams back in the Conference Tournament. It took a lot of work to fit them in, and this year they asked for the U11s to take part as well. Few realise what a huge amount of work the tournament involves for **GH**, both in the organisation leading up to it and at the rink before and during the event.

Missing out some of the ice cuts did not prove a problem last time. **GH** has managed to fit in the Scotland U11s without games carrying on much later into the evenings. Three teams will not have a game on the Monday unless they make the final.

**CD** said at the last Conference Tournament there were two incidents of parents attacking their own children. It is important to brief people on what is expected of them. The Conference teams police the dressing rooms. Paying security for this would be too expensive. **CD** said coaches and managers need to be given more child protection information, and the Conference Tournament would benefit from that. **GH** said if parents behave in such a bizarre way rules and guidelines will not stop them.

**CD** said players are under a lot of pressure, and the coaches need to have the integrity to use all three lines. **GH** always asks the team staff to ensure all three lines are used. Monitoring ice time needs two people per game and is a difficult job. Also it does not tell the whole story, as some shifts are extremely short. Counting shift lengths would probably not be practicable. **ST**

proposed that the Conferences should ask the mentor coaches to police it. However the South East have said they do not want to have a mentor coach. Players cannot be treated completely fairly unless they change on the buzzer. The Conference Tournament format is still far better than trials.

### **JUNIOR FINALS – R MACKRIEL / J BOWNS**

The Junior Finals will be on 17 – 18 May. They want many helpers over the weekend. The format will be the same as last season. While having use of the second pad seems like a major advantage, in fact it is unlikely there can be more than one game arranged on the second pad, and the event will have very long hours.

**GH** said last time there were problems making sure people had paid. c. 500 people came in for the U19 final when there was no longer anyone taking money. He asked if the hand stamping system justified the large amount of effort involved. He has asked iceSheffield about having the doors closed, but they will not do it for health and safety reasons. He suggested having a fee per team and not charging spectators. The clubs would then be reimbursed by the parents. However the EIHA receive only 30% of the gate, and the rink would still expect to be paid the same amount. Some thought it would be worth trying other rinks. **TL** said it would be better to have admission by programme. **JB** said when the Sheffield club run tournaments they handle the money themselves and do not let the rink become involved. The YMC would like to do it this way, but would not be able to this year as they are under contract. **BW** will negotiate with iceSheffield, who would hate to have the event moved elsewhere and want to host more events. It is important to know as soon as possible what iceSheffield will charge. £200 per team would not be enough to cover costs. It is difficult to gauge what clubs would be prepared to pay. **RM** will check with **IJ** about the contract, and **NM** will distribute figures.

**RM** said the decision not to have Any Other Business on the agenda was deliberate; there should be no need for it as there is ample opportunity to ask for items to be included. She said people could bring up any short items.

**ST** asked whether players were allowed to train at other rinks. They are, but it should be done by agreement between the two clubs, with a copy to **VW**. There has been a disciplinary problem where a player banned out of his own club is now training at another. **VW** said the insurance is through the club and also covers EIHA activity such as Conference team trials.

**GH** is going to write to all eligible players about the new U16 Girls competition. The information was sent out to all junior clubs but they have not all received it.

**JB** asked if YMC officers could have job descriptions so they are clear about their remit. **RM** said this has been done in the past and she will distribute the job descriptions.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the YMC will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the Hilton Hotel at Junction 23 of the M1.

Signed..... Date.....