



Womens Section Meeting

14th October 2007

1. Roll Call, present GH, ST, HJ, AW, KS SC. Apologies were received from JP
2. GH welcomed everyone to the meeting.
3. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting
4. As above
5. Premier Fixtures, allocation of fixtures was bad again this year.
Bilingham's fixtures were not available until 2nd Sept and Cardiff's were not available until 24th August. Only 2 months of fixtures were released at the beginning of the season due to this.
There has been an increase in dates that teams are unable to play.
Cardiff – 12
Streatham – 8
Slough – 8, some due to European Cup
Both Solihull and Newcastle have been very flexible and many thanks to them
There have been 21 game changes which equals to 23%, Bilingham have been the most difficult to work with, Cardiff were quite difficult – not advising that they were not available the first weekend of the season; NHL games also caused havoc with lost games.
This season could be very interesting with different teams at the top of the premier.
International Womens World Championships will be 6-12 April in Hungary. There will be no more fixtures changes until the GB team list has been announced.
Congratulations to Slough for winning a game last weekend in the European Championships.
6. North have had a fairly good start to the season, Blackburn have had difficulties in finding enough players. Sheffield have lost ice on the 16/3.

South – Oxford City/Milton Keynes was canceled the Thursday before 29/30 Sept weekend.
Bears are 2 dates short which have been accommodated by the Oxford Midnight Stars. Milton Keynes lost ice to an EPNL game on 14th Oct.

The loss of the U16 players is greatly affecting the womens teams and it will take some time for the teams to recover.

7. U16 – Inaugural year. It has been a struggle for teams to attract players. With the North being more successful than the South. There are 90 girls in the North with 4 teams, and 87 girls in the South with 3 teams. Dispensation has been given to Bracknell/Kingston and Sheffield. Newcastle/Billingham/Streatham and Oxford have not requested any dispensation.

GH has concerns that teams need to sort this early to avoid problems as the games get nearer. If the teams have players from other clubs, please use the template from the U16 pack accompanied with a letter from the home club to be sent as soon as possible to GH. The dispensation letter should then be sent with the necessary forms and payment to Val Wilkinson. Clubs need to look at the U16 players themselves and not from a club point of view. If you don't have a team, encourage your players to look elsewhere to play female hockey. Teams need to be sensible in how many girls they sign. It has been suggested that 15 per squad to make sure there are enough teams for a competition. For example Newcastle/Billingham and Whitley Bay are geographically close and they have 22 players that could play for either team. Would it be better to divide the players so there are 2 or 3 teams to play against rather than just one?

8. Oxford – There has been a discussion over the issues that Oxford Zodiacs are having. GH will contact the Zodiacs and the situation is to be reviewed by 9/12/07. The Committee feel it is important that womens hockey in Oxford gets as much support as possible.
9. England trip to Prague was a great success again, and the seniors should be returning again next year.
10. South England – are due to start training again at the end of October. Lee Valley have extended their support to us again this season.
11. Kim Sutton has been brought in to assist with the coaching for the North seniors and Dave Holland has joined the junior set up in the North.
12. North v South game schedule. It has been proposed that the 1st game will be held at Coventry on the weekend of 25/26 January. The 2nd game will be held at Ice Sheffield on Good Friday facing off at 12.15 (lunch time). It will be preceded by the U16 game at 10.30 am.
13. SOX (School of Excellence), for U16 girls will again be held at Hull, week commencing 26th May till 30 May.

14. England U16 girls – GH is looking for a tournament to take the girls to. Finland is a possibility, as a review of the age of the opposition has been undertaken due to the U16 rule.

15. GB as a founder member of the IIHF has been asked to compete in a skills competition this season to mark the 100th anniversary of the IIHF.

There will be an U10 jamboree and the best players from the North, South and Scotland will be assessed for a camp in Canada in May 2008. Possibly 2-18 May. The best U15 Male and Female either outfield or netminder will go to the camp. Further details and the criteria will be advised.

16. Trophy Weekend – will be held at Ice Sheffield the weekend 24/25 May.

The set up should be as follows

24 May

12.15 pm Winner D1 North v 2nd D1 South

2.00 pm Winner D1 South v 2nd D1 North

3.45 pm Winner Prem v 4th Prem

6.00 pm 2nd Prem v 3rd Prem

25 May

10.00 am D1 3rd v D1 4th

11.45 am Prem 3rd v Prem 4th

2.00 pm U16 Final v U16 Final – from the U16 League

3.45 pm D1 Final v D1 Final

5.30 pm Prem Final v Prem Final

AOB

Concern was raised about the amount being paid for travelling costs to referees. Despite local refs being available, refs from further afield were travelling to games. Costing clubs unnecessary extra costs. Can we have some feedback from Referee in Chief regarding the allocation of refs.