

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BI-ANNUAL MEETING

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2001, St Ivo Recreation Centre

## **PRESENT:**

Stephen Graves, Chairman  
Simon Fairhall, Secretary  
David Burt, Saffron Walden  
Liz Ellerington, Cambridge City Council / Cambridge City HC  
Pauline Hammond, St Ives  
Sally Tippen, Cambridge City  
Bridget Gibson, Saffron Walden / CWHL  
Gail McDonnell, Newmarket  
William Wilson, Newmarket  
Theresa Choat, Newmarket  
Caroline Bucknall, Cambridge South  
Robert Hay, Cambridge South  
Tony Osborne, St Ives  
Charles Farrow, East Regional Development Manager  
Paul Taylor, Under-15 Boys Manager  
Sharon Stimson, Peterborough  
Jane Bunney, Peterborough  
Neil Collcott, Peterborough Town  
Neil Liversedge, March Town  
Craig Brand, March Town  
Graham Finding, Peterborough Athletic  
Rob Fisher, Peterborough Athletic  
Rob Furlong, Cambridge City Mini / Cambridgeshire Nomads  
Debbie Mould – Girls Under-15 Coach  
David Webb – Ely City  
Max Huckle – Wisbech  
Richard Munns – CHUA  
John Scholfield – Peterborough Town

*Please advise of anyone who was present but did not sign the list to indicate so.*

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Michael Wrathmall – Treasurer  
Ros Twemlow – St Neots  
Ian Worsfold – St Neots  
Jane Peggs – Wisbech  
Alan Coote – Saffron Walden

Stephen Graves welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for making the effort to attend. He noted that this second general meeting had come about in response to changes at East level and that one of the agenda items was a chance for East issues to be raised with clubs and a chance for them to raise issues to be taken back to the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

The other parts of the meeting included a presentation from Charles Farrow, the new English Hockey Network Regional Development Manager and to have a discussion around the issue of Umpiring. The meeting would then split with Senior and Junior issues each being addressed.

## **2. UMPIRING**

Richard Munns made a presentation to the meeting. He highlighted the following points:

- That the East League recommended that there should be 3 umpires for each team a Club enters in the East League
- That Level One umpires now had to do a minimum number of games each year
- That over the years Cambridgeshire have produced a good number of umpires, but also good quality umpires – many have gone on to East and England
- However there are now only 9 umpires in the Pool, which restricts the number of appointments that can be made

He asked how the CHUA Associate Members could be persuaded to umpire in the Pool on a regular or irregular basis. An example from Norfolk was that Clubs link – for example if Peterborough were playing

Nomads then Athletic and South provide the umpires. In the current leagues this would not result in too much travel for these Pool umpires. An alternative example, from Lincolnshire was that each Club had to put an umpire into the Pool. He noted however that this did not always result in the best umpires being put forward, or arguments over whether a club has put someone in.

He proposed that it was necessary to get a formalised structure in place to bring umpires through, supported by assessors. There were opportunities for progress beyond the County to East and further. He suggested that players who have not achieved much might be able to do so umpiring. He finished by stating that it was not possible to survive at the present level.

Thoughts from the Clubs consisted:

- Many people attempt to juggle playing and umpiring
- Astro enables both
- Difficulty in finding umpires for existing home / away games and have to coerce players already. It would not be possible for games other than for their own Club
- How about 2 home umpires per match, as people may be prepared to do the game following their own, but not travel to umpire
- Smaller clubs would struggle because often if the 1<sup>st</sup> team is home the 2nds are away and these clubs struggle already
- Players are more committed to playing, not umpiring
- There should be a concentration on young people, in junior sections as a good grounding. It was suggested that the Preliminary Umpiring Award could support this. Support for and from Schools and Clubs was proposed.
- Were clubs aware of retirees from East umpiring duties

It was noted that 85 Level One candidates awaited practical assessment.

Richard summarised by stressing that umpiring could be a route for much progression for those keen and competent.

### **3. CHARLES FARROW ENGLISH HOCKEY NETWORK EAST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

Charles expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to present to the meeting. He provided some information on his background in hockey, which included a heavy involvement at Club level in a voluntary capacity. He proposed that his role consisted of:

- Getting out and about to support and develop as much as possible
- Particularly encouraging young umpires
- Being proactive in youth development
- And hopefully helping clubs with issues particular to their situations
- For example facility developments

### **4. MATTERS FOR AND FROM EAST**

The following matters were raised:

**4.1 Child Protection and Hockey Coach Level One Award training** - the meeting supported the proposal for a bid to be made to East for financial support from known, and potentially available funds, to run these to training courses, ideally at a couple of venues in the County.

**4.2 Use of any excess income over expenditure at East (as a result of sponsorship)** – the meeting proposed – medals for League Winners, subsidy for training courses, incentives for people taking up umpiring.

**4.3 Interest in Indoor** – it was recommended that enquiries about participation in East indoor activities should be directed to the Indoor League running at the Perse School as this was the group clearly interested in Indoor Hockey

**4.4 Single post-box per Club** – the meeting agreed that this was sensible (but thought that at East level it already happened).

**4.5 EHA competitions** – it was proposed that the dividing line between the EHA Vase and Trophy competition qualification should be reconsidered as it was suggested as being too harsh.

**4.6 Travel for lower level teams** – it was recommended that more local leagues, to cut down on travelling, were needed for teams in lower leagues. This was because their interest did not stretch to long journeys, resulting in a whole Saturday taken out. The difficulties because of the geography of Lincolnshire were noted. Midway, neutral venues were proposed as one alternative option.

**4.7 Coaching** – Clarification was requested on unqualified coaches working with juniors in clubs. It was suggested that the recommendation from EHA would be that coaches should obtain a qualification and insurance cover. However it was thought that the EHA Clubs Insurance Policy did provide cover for unqualified coaches. Similarly individuals household insurance was suggested. It was suggested that no clear answer could be given without details of the policies available, and then even then it might not be possible until an instance occurred and the policy was tested. It was indicated that unqualified coaches working under qualified coaches guidance (and cover) needed to be clearly under their

guidance and not in sole charge of a group. Charles Farrow agreed to seek some clarification from the EHA national office and would forward the response for circulation.

## **5. NOTES OF SENIOR MEETING**

### **5.1 Senior County Men's Organiser**

The group was pleased that John Scholfield had expressed an interest and were keen for him to undertake the role.

There was a view that the players were more interested in the National Tournament than the East. There will be liaison with John on this and we will go with his preferred view.

*The National Competition details have just been announced, and Cambridgeshire will play in B Division, Group 8 at Maidenhead, with Berkshire, Isle of Man and Herefordshire on 11 / 12 May 2002.*

### **5.2 Senior Women**

There is interest and the Women's League (Bridget Gibson) is taking this forward and is already liaising with clubs and players.

### **5.3 Women's Veterans**

There seems to be a fair amount of interest. The emerging view was that we should correspond to the clubs though the Women's League.

There was debate as to whether the club is representing the County or themselves. This arises because there is a County round. It was suggested that this is an administrative nicety and that clubs are actually representing themselves. In the days of the HA (mens) Cup and Trophy there was a Cambridgeshire process but the clubs were definitely representing themselves. Having said this the real issue seemed to be the entry fee - £85 seems a lot for a one-day competition.

It was agreed to confirm whether the entry fee is justifiable, and if so the County should be prepared to contribute this year to this, but to confirm the matter at a Management Group meeting for the future arrangement.

### **5.4 County Cup Competitions**

The general view from both the men and women was that there is not a lot of interest save a proposal from Peterborough Athletic for a one-day Cup and Plate competitions with teams split according to the Leagues they play in.

It was concluded that we have had the meeting and asked the question and that the view of those there was not to have such competitions for men or women. But that we would like to hear from others if there is a contrary view. If there isn't; then an end to those competitions.

### **5.5 Mixed**

On mixed there was some debate but no clear conclusions.

#### ***Additional note on mixed***

*It has subsequently been suggested in a phone call from Kevin Stanton King to Stephen Graves:*

- *that we are asking the wrong people about Mixed Hockey issues*
- *and that there is a lot of interest for a tournament, county team, vets county team and possibly a county U21's.*

*The question was asked if the key contacts for mixed are known for communicating directly with. [In answer an attempt was made at the establishment of the CHA to make contact with the known mixed teams, and a circular has been put out in the past to Men's, Women's and Mixed contacts (asking for interest in these activities) but with very little response].*

*Kevin seemed to indicate an interest to take on some of the organising roles. He also highlighted an interest in an East Tournament, which will be raised at the East meeting to see what the reaction is.*

*Kevin will be invited to come to the next meeting of the Management Group to discuss and hopefully take the matter further.*

## **6. NOTES OF JUNIOR MEETING**

Simon Fairhall indicated that there were three important items – Awards for All, matters for and from the East, and an introduction to the opportunities presented by Active Sports, which will come on line for hockey early in 2002. He apologised that the session would consist of a lot of information from him to Clubs but hoped that it would be useful in the long run.

### **6.1 Awards for All**

At recent meetings it had been indicated that the East Awards for All 'sports pot' still had about 46% of its allocation for 2001 - 2002 left (approximately £400 000) with only two further Awards Panel Meetings. It was also noted that Cambridgeshire had on a comparative basis not had as many grants as other Counties in the East, and Awards to hockey were very low.

It was noted that a number of Clubs present had been successful – March Town, Newmarket and Cambridge City – in the past.

*The deadline and Panel Meetings are:*

- 19<sup>th</sup> December 2001 for 18<sup>th</sup> January 2002
- 20<sup>th</sup> February 2002 for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2002

It was strongly recommended that Clubs take advantage of the opportunity presented by this situation and put in Awards for All bids (£500 - £5000). To help, packs have been requested for all CHA Hockey Clubs and a seminar will be held before Christmas (the intention being that at the end of the seminar an application will have been completed with assistance from an expert advisor). A number of Local Authority / Active Sports seminars are also planned for the new year.

Applications could be for such things as:

- Coaching and other training costs
- Hockey equipment and kit (eg goalkeeping kit)
- Coaches fees
- Publicity items – design and production

All that was required with the completed application was:

- Club Bank account details – account name, bank / building society name and address, sort code, account number, and details of who and how many signatories to the account.
- Recent account details (ie previous year)
- Club constitution

## **6.2 Active Sports**

Active Sports will (subject to a Sport England Lottery Panel meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2001) bring in a total of £100877 to hockey in Cambridgeshire over the next 5 years.

£20278 for 2002, which must be matched with a £5052 local contribution (known as Partnership Funding). This needs each year to be a minimum of 20% of the total programme costs. In 2002 the CHA is putting in £4000, the rest coming from Local Authority partners.

But the CHA is asking Clubs for a contribution to this amount because we are raiding almost the whole of the reserves for it.

The planned programme for 2002 includes:

- 15 Club Satellite Centres (to support links with Clubs)
- Heart of the East Youth Games (U12 Girls & Boys competitions on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2002 in Peterborough)
- 3 U14 schools competitions
- Coach to go into at least 2 Schools (to encourage links with Saffron Walden HC – not included with Club Satellite Centres)
- Umpire Coach into at least 6 Fenland and Peterborough Schools
- 8 Clubs supported in Year One – March Town, St Ives, St Neots, Cambridge City, Royston, Saffron Walden, Peterborough, Ely
- Stix Awards and Hockey Rules OK! Packs for every Club
- U13 Boys and Girls Assessments at two sites (N & S) in the County
- U13 Player Development Centre
- Leading to an Active Sports Talent Camp at the University of East Anglia in June 2002
- A Level One Coach Award course and three Coaching Updates
- Umpires briefing for those developing young umpires
- And numerous other generic courses available to hockey

And probably most importantly a part-time Hockey Development Officer (Activator) to support the whole programme (and hopefully in due course this post becoming full-time).

There will numerous opportunities for Coaches, but they will need to be qualified and insured as a minimum.

The sort of support available to Clubs will consist:

- A chance to join a national sports development programme
- Help with development planning

- Links with partners (Local Authority Sports Development Officers)
- Guidance for organisation and development of the club through training and courses
- Opportunity to generate interest from young people through Club Satellite Centres and Schools Competitions
- Work towards the 'Safe, Effective and Child Friendly' criteria which is a new national standard for sports clubs, and will become a prerequisite if Local Authorities / Schools are to promote Clubs to young people

In response to a question from John Scholfield it was reported that the County U13's (Boys and Girls) had 'missed' their traditional programme of the first half of the season. But that the Active Sports activity starting after Christmas would give the same group of players to have missed out a good programme of activity, culminating in the Active Sports Talent Camp.

It was reported that Local Authorities were looking for Managers and Coaches for their Heart of the East Youth Games teams.

### **6.3 Matters for and from the East**

It was agreed that the following will be raised:

- Request for quicker updating of East information on the website (other sections on a par with the League please)
- Proposal to move the BAE Systems U16/U18 Schools Tournament East round to later in the term to allow Cambridgeshire Schools more time to hold the County Round, possible using an alternative format to the very short games.
- Recommendation that 1<sup>st</sup> September be adopted as the age qualification date for County representative teams – following the EHA Talent identification and Development Strategy; School years and Active Sports.
- That if any funds were available at East a contribution to Active Sports in Cambridgeshire would be very welcome. It was suggested that Suffolk had had a similar idea, and it was agreed to approach Lincolnshire and Essex likewise.

Notes taken by Simon Fairhall, Secretary and Stephen Graves, Chairman