

## Cambridgeshire Hockey Association Report to ERHA Management Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> December

This report was constructed following a meeting with Clubs on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2001 and recent CHA Management Group meetings.

### UMPIRES

#### **ERHA Notes of Management Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2001 [5.4 Umpiring Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet]**

Our meeting received a good presentation from Richard Munns, Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Hockey Umpires Association which highlighted the issue reflected by this minute and offered some ideas for addressing it, including the mandatory pool. I think it fair to say that a mandatory pool would not have any support from Cambridgeshire. All Clubs highlighted problems with finding umpires, but felt that the problem would be greater if we were to ask them to umpire games other than for their own club.

The following ideas were proposed:

- Two home umpires per game
- Work with Clubs and Schools to encourage more young people to take up umpiring as a matter of course increasing the general pool and possibly identifying some for whom umpiring is the future. [Cambridgeshire is considering purchasing copies of Hockey Rules OK! for every Club and School]
- Complete the assessment of Level One candidates awaited practical assessment.

I would like to add to these:

- That more people be trained as Umpire Coaches, with the target being one per Club. Not just retired Umpires, but Coaches and Players (who of course are often experts as well!)
- That Umpire Coaches should regularly attend Clubs (venues) and stay the whole day, seeing 8/10 umpires in the day. Provide feedback to these, and importantly if there are any amongst them who show potential make a note / speak to them directly about the opportunities rather than relying on the cascade system. It would be appropriate to pay the Umpire Coach for this day's work, charging back to the Club directly, or the indirectly through the County.

### OTHER MATTERS FOR AND FROM EAST

**ERHA Management Meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2001 2. Matters Arising from September meeting [2.3].** The meeting supported the proposal for a bid to be made to East for financial support from known, and potentially available funds (Awards for All grant) to run Child Protection and Hockey Coach Level One Award training courses, ideally at a couple of venues in the County.

#### *ACTION PROPOSED BY CHA*

- *A request is therefore made to the East for £440 for two Sports Coach UK Child Protection courses.*
- *A request is also made for assistance (from Sportsmatch) towards the costs of assessing candidates from the Cambridge, Cambridge and March NVQ Hockey Coach Level Two Award courses*

**ERHA Management Meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2001 3. Finance [3.7]. 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. Our junior meeting subsequently proposed that if any funds were available at East a contribution to Active Sports in Cambridgeshire would be very welcome. We hope that Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Kent and Essex will support us in this, and that some funds are retained for Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Bedfordshire when they come on line with Active Sports.

#### *ACTION PROPOSED BY CHA*

*That if there is a surplus at East that a contribution of £1000 be made to each County for the purpose of supporting their contribution to Active Sports Partnership Funding.*

**Indoor Hockey** – 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 interest in Indoor Hockey

**ERHA Management Meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2001 4.4 Communications [Single Liaison Officer in each Club / single post-box]** – the meeting agreed that this was sensible (but thought that at East level it already happened). The CHA Management Group have had discussions of a similar nature. In recent years Cambridgeshire have had either a large mailing list of all contacts, or a smaller list of just one key contact per section. It is questionable as to which has been most effective. This year a couple of Clubs have not responded to requests for information, which it is felt is because they have already done so for the Leagues.

Cambridgeshire also hasn't had a Handbook for two seasons, with little complaint, which it is felt is because the East Handbook is quite comprehensive. However, questions have been asked about what is the use of sending the East Handbook to Schools – what information in there is of any relevance or use to Schools.

#### **ACTION PROPOSED BY CHA**

- *East Leagues share the information they collect / include additional information requests (on behalf of Counties) from their annual circular to save East League / Cambridgeshire League / CHA all asking separately for much the same information*
- *That the East Handbook be extended to include additional information ie additional youth information*
- *That a Working Group be established to consider the implication of the expansion of Leagues on County Associations [the future of County Associations]*

**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 in terms of the East.

**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.

**East website** - a quicker updating of East information on the website (other sections on a par with the League) was requested.

**BAE Systems Girls Schools Competitions** – it is requested [again] that the BAE Systems U16/U18 Schools Tournament East round is moved to later in the Autumn term to allow more Schools the opportunity to participate. This is because Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Schools have different half-terms. And it would allow an alternative format, to the very short games in one day, to be adopted, linking with the 4 District School Sports Associations in the County

#### **ACTION PROPOSED BY CHA**

*Change to the date of the East Round of the BAE Systems Girls Schools competitions*

**Age Qualification date for Girls County Teams** - Cambridgeshire is now running Under-13 and Under-14 Girls County teams using 1<sup>st</sup> September as the age qualification date. It will also do so at Under-15's next year, and ultimately all County Teams. We strongly recommend that 1<sup>st</sup> September be adopted as the age qualification date for all East Counties representative teams:

- following the EHA Talent Identification and Development Strategy. What's the point of it otherwise?
  - matching School years
  - avoid confusion and have consistency across the one game. Rather than having to explain different rules for different genders and different activities, to parents, players and teachers. It's a absolute nonsense.
  - enabling us to make best use of Active Sports, to fit with County Hockey programmes [including the offer of up to £800 from English Hockey to support next summer's Active Sports Talent Camps which are for Under-13's using 1<sup>st</sup> September as the age qualification date]
  - and to enable us to compete with Girls Football, Girls Rugby and Netball who use 1<sup>st</sup> September!
- But most importantly to allow girls to play in their own year group, with their peers and friends rather than splitting them up.

#### **ACTION PROPOSED BY CHA**

*That 1<sup>st</sup> September is adopted as the age qualification date for Girls County Teams*

**Men's Senior County** - there was a view that the players were more interested in the National Tournament than the East and that Cambridgeshire will not be entering the East Competition this year.

**Women's Senior County** - are other Counties in the East interested? And at Under-21 level too?

**Women's Veterans** - there is an issue with the entry fee - £85 seems a lot for a one-day competition.

**Mixed Hockey** - it has been suggested:

- 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.

#### **OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

##### **Awards for All**

Information was shared about Awards for All (see NEWS for full details)

##### **Active Sports Hockey in Cambridgeshire**

Information was shared about Active Sports in Cambridgeshire (see NEWS for full details)