

North HA AGM 2018: Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) Report – Chris Reece

RCC has met on three occasions this year: 9th October 2017, 9th January 2018 and 8th May 2018

We also had a Tele-Conference Call meeting with Ian Wilson (IW) in March to discuss the proposed amendments to the Articles of the Association, which were subsequently approved at the EH AGM March 2018.

The main topics at meetings this year have been:

a) EH Governance Review/Consultation

Following the 2017 AGM, a working group was established of which is chaired by Liz Pelling

LP presented RCC the Executive Summary of the Governance review; the review was broken into key areas; structure, people, communications and transparency, policies and processes, standards and conduct. A lot of data was produced during the consultation process and Yvonne had refined and was presented to the Board in January 2018. LP highlighted key areas of difference of structures and views across the country. The review showed that there were opportunities for change and improvement to the governance of the sport. However the sport was not at crisis point.

b) Affiliation Process – review of 2017 process

798 clubs with 3761 adult teams had affiliated. There were more participants overall but a smaller number of clubs. The average number of teams per clubs has risen as had the average number of players per club.

c) Reorganisation of the EHL (Bridging the Gap)

The drivers of the league restructure were the forthcoming Pro League and requests from many EHL clubs asking for change. The regional leagues had met (January 2018) and accepted the principle of a 60 team EHL. The NPUA and the RHUAs had agreed that they could accommodate the increased size.

The new structure has subsequently been issued (April 2018), that increases the EHL to 60 teams and with promotion into the EHL for 2nd XI teams for 2019-20 season. The structure will be reviewed after the Tokyo Olympics.

d) Review of Discipline Code

Ian Wilson recorded that weaknesses in the dispute regulations had been highlighted through a couple of challenging cases. As a result the Board have agreed that the regulations need to change, The Constitution and Regulations Committee had been asked to review the Code and recommend changes.

e) General Data Protection Regulation (GTPR)

Ian Wilson briefed the members on the GDPR. England Hockey had set up a working group across various departments and was working on what is needed internally. England Hockey will pull together guidance for clubs but for the interim The Sports Recreational Alliance have issued a technical guidance.

f) Umpiring Strategy update (October 2017)

Stephen Tabb and David Elworthy provided an update. 120 courses (2300 attendees) had been run in 579 clubs over the last two years. The assessment rate was 20%. The committee noted that there was still a major issue in converting umpires into taking neutral appointments.

Members of the RCC

Sue Bodycomb (England Hockey President)

Chris Todd (England Hockey Vice President)

Liz Pelling (England Hockey Vice President)

Chris Reece (North)

Charles Hallows (West)

Colonel Richard Head (UKAFHA)

Sally Tippen (East)

Martin Hives (Midlands)

Neville Wrench (South and Chair)