

North HA AGM 2020: Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) Report: Tony Shutt

RCC has met on four occasions this year: 8th October 2019, 7th January 2020, 16th June 2020 and 21st July 2020

The main topics at meetings this year have been:

8 October 2019

AGM Resolution

LP thanked RB/IW for delivering the roadshow presentations in a consistent manner.

LP reviewed progress so far. There had been just under 400 roadshow attendees representing a broad section of clubs and associations. Most attendees were only interested in playing and not organisation. A set of FAQ's had been released. A letter had gone to clubs and associations reminding them that the on-line survey closes 27 October.

Members reported the current views in the regions.

North: the majority of Council were in favour of the proposal.

West: largely unaffected but here was a need to clarify exactly what the region's area would cover.

Midlands: There was still a need for counties but some were very small. The women's county leagues could be problematic; the devil would be in the detail. The region's three main HUAs - MRHUA, EMHUA, and Birmingham HUA - needed further consideration. There were concerns as to how discipline would be managed.

East: only affected at the margins around London and Kent women. Positive response from some women's leagues with Five Counties and Essex already discussing future arrangements.

South: major affected area. Both South leagues had stressed the need for their clubs to respond to the consultation. Significant concerns by the HUAs regarding their status.

All regions reported that there could be a loss of volunteers.

The Committee considered that there were a number of key questions for the working party:

- Clarifying geographic regions.
- how will the league structures be created?.
- How will local (mostly Women's) leagues be integrated?
- What the sub-areas will be is requested. Would this be a local decision-making process?
- Simplifying levels of discipline but retaining integrity within it. Discussion on discipline need to be retained at area level v being done nationally.
- Governance – clarity on the relationship between areas and EH.
- Recruiting volunteers to roles.
- Umpires – whether linked to area or top to bottom.
- Schools and Universities – clarity from that perspective.
- Visibility of winding up clauses where appropriate.
- Is the AGM resolution to be one resolution or a series of motions requiring specific actions.

RB circulated the FAQs which are available here: www.englishhockey.co.uk/agmresolution

Affiliation

Club Affiliation was now open and all clubs had been made aware. Affiliation would be via the new EH club portal; club contacts would have an individual log-in rather than a shared one, Sophie Crumly is leading the process – any queries via clubs@englishhockey.co.uk.

Indoor rules

David Elworthy updated on revised indoor rules. Press release will be issued in next couple of days. EH was proposing 4 quarters of 10 minutes with rolling clock at national level. Time will not be stopped for PC's and there would be no time outs.

Officiating Management System

David Elworthy updated. The HUA 2016 conference had discussed how to improve/speed up the progression timeline in officiating. Visibility and technology came up as a significant issue. There were requests to have one point of contact/one database and a single place to put availability and report appointments. A database operator for the OMS had been appointed and the system was being implemented with the NPUA and Regional HUAs.

There were three issues at present with OMS: 1. Accounting package – roll out started in October. 2. Data interrogation reports. 3. Front end websites for associations.

Hockey Heroes

This was a new programme for 5-8 year olds. www.hockeyheroes.co.uk for more info.

c1100 registered players already from the 80 clubs who are starting sessions this year. Good start and considering the best approach.

7 January 2020

Nick Pink CEO

NW welcomed NP to his first meeting of the RCC. NP thanked the RCC for the invitation. NP outlined his passion for hockey and appetite for the role and support for the work England Hockey is doing and the passion and enthusiasm of the volunteer network. NW said NP would be welcome to attend future meetings if he were available.

AGM Resolution progress and proposal to EH AGM

RB asked for feedback or questions on the more detailed proposal.

AW raised about distribution of funds given some clubs in East will go to be part of the new Areas. EH will advise on a case by case basis. Regions and Counties will need to develop transfer policy depending on the winding up clauses in the constitution.

- Concerns regarding the AGM and the specifics of the actual resolution. MS advised the maximum amount of flexibility to deal with scenarios. The following outline approach was suggested by the RCC.
- Board approve the resolution and communicate by 4 February
- Any alternative resolutions/amendments received by 20 February
- Final agenda issued by 25 February at the latest - AGM 17 March
- MS advised that EH get independent legal advice on various scenarios for the AGM and how potential issues at or before the AGM should be handled. Action IW/RB.

Hockey Heroes

RB provided an update on the Hockey Heroes programme for 5-8 year olds that was being piloted. 68 clubs are involved in the larger pilot with c1250 children taking part so far. Feedback was extremely positive from club and participants/parents with very high feedback scores and strong intentions to continue in hockey afterwards. More than half of families involved were completely new to hockey.

The next steps are to run follow up sessions and more new blocks of activity during the remainder of this season/summer 2020. A larger scale roll out is being planned for September 2020.

16 June 2020

Return to Play

RB outlined the way EH intended to respond to the opening up of opportunities for sport – the roadmap. In reality things had moved faster than first thought and there were now opportunities for small group activity.

EH had prepared a number of scenarios for the restart of league hockey. A full season would be possible if started in the September/October period. If the start was delayed further then there would need to be a restructured league competition such as one match only and then top half play each other and bottom half each other or even more restricted. The advice would be shared with the regional leagues and it was hoped that would be a general acceptance of whichever model was needed.

The organisational difficulties were discussed. It was accepted that not all clubs would necessarily have access to shared pitches provided by schools and councils; indeed some schools had already indicated that were unlikely to open facilities before next year as they would give priority to their own needs. Another complicating factor which would have to be addressed should it arise would be any local lock downs.

AGM & A Structure Fit for the Future

MS confirmed that the AGM must be resumed by 19 September, i.e. within 18 months of the previous AGM. It was expected that the government will modify the rules for AGMs so the meeting was not required to have the attendees physically present.

Regional and County AGMs

RB agreed to share the advice on holding AGMs primarily written for clubs but equally valid for regions and counties. Associations would need to examine their constitutions to see if a video conference could be permitted.

EH advice on holding electronic AGM's:

<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2625§ionTitle=Leadership>

21 July 2020

Return to Play

RB updated on Return to Play and the next steps as per the latest updates www.englishockey.co.uk/covid19. RB reminded members of the Step process and discussed the challenges in getting from local match play to leagues resuming. The emerging evidence was that the overall time that players were in close proximity of other players would not be an issue as distinct from rugby and soccer. He was optimistic that there could be a jump directly to step 4 – local match play. However, to do this would still require approval from SE, DCMS and CO. Full league hockey would be the last activity to return.

RB the Facilities team was gathering information on unavailable pitches. facilities@englishockey.co.uk. RB said EH was considering pitch availability as part of the return-to-play decision making process; there would be guidance on the opening of facilities.

Following the Covid-19 club survey EH had circulated a draft guide on possible league rules and regulations which could be adopted for the various timescales for return. RB said he already had some feedback from leagues and associations.

Members of the RCC

Mike Stoddard (England Hockey President)
Liz Pelling (England Hockey Vice President)
Chris Reece (England Hockey Vice President)
Tony Shutt (North)
Keith Dingle (West)
T.B.A. (UKAFHA)
Ali Wardale (East)
Martin Hives (Midlands)
Neville Wrench (South and Chair)