

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the **Ulster Women's Hockey Union**
held on Wednesday 21st May 2008 at 7.30 pm
in the Dub Pavilion, Queen's University Belfast

1. Apologies were received from:-

Marie Agnew, Norma Bowman, Gerry Gray, Diane Harris, Linda Johnston, Anne Laing, Robert Nelson, Lesley Spence, Doreen Stephens, Lynda Walsh, Ali Watt, Rosalind Wilson, Banbridge Hockey Club and Knock Hockey Club.

2. President's Remarks

The President, Mrs. Ann Jameison, welcomed the members to the Annual General meeting and reported that the year had seen many successes for our schools, clubs and Interprovincial teams.

She congratulated the Ulster Senior, U21 and Junior squads and their management teams who had won Interprovincial trophies. The U18 and U16 each took the runners up spot in their tournaments. Many of these Ulster players are now representing Ireland at various levels and recorded her best wishes to the Irish U16 squad in the forthcoming European tournament and to all Irish teams who will be playing over the summer months.

A special thanks was given to Stephen Watt, the High Performance Manager and to the others involved in the work at SINI. Having observed our elite players who attended SINI the standard of hockey and their lifestyles were a great credit to the work carried out there. Many of our young players were availing of this excellent facility.

At the time of reporting, Ulster teams had won three All Ireland competitions: Royal School Armagh retained The Kate Russell all Ireland Schools Cup, Pegasus retained The Irish Senior Cup, Dromore won The May Costley Cup and Pegasus were still involved in the Club championship with a Semi final game during the next weekend. She wished them good luck and expressed the hope that this title would also be retained. Pegasus had also competed in the B division European Club Championship and retained Ireland's place in this division, conceding only one game in the tournament.

She thanked the members of Council for their attendance and support at meetings and for their assistance at various events.

Ulster during the year had hosted the U18 Interprovincial Tournament and in conjunction with the men's branch, the U21 Interprovincial Tournament and the pool stages of the Irish club championships. She thanked Mrs Jennifer Patterson, Ms Clare Bloomfield and the event committee for organising these so well.

Unfortunately once again, two members had resigned during the season and this added a burden to those remaining members. She stated that Clubs must be willing to support and assist with the running of the UWHU.

She recorded a special thank you to:

- Norma Gartside, who after her retirement, took over as Hon Secretary, Norma is also Vice Chairman of the IHA Management Board and still finds time to umpire for her club.
- Jennifer Patterson, who started the year as Hon Secretary and at times manned the office during the absence of the administrative assistant. She was also the main event organiser.
- Ann Shiels Hon Match Sec for all her hard work in setting up and managing the new League Structure. Ann was also our rep on IHA Competitions Committee.
- Linda Johnston, who unfortunately had to stand down as Hon Treasurer due to work and family commitments. Thanks were recorded for her service as Treasurer to the Union.
- Edna Gribben Past President for her assistance during the year.
- Mary Swann President Elect for her assistance and acting as the liaison person with schools. Mary was also the representative on the IHA Schools and Colleges Committee.
- Marietta Lammey, for her work on Development Committee and for representing the UWHU on the IHA Development Committee. Marietta was also effective in organising the accounts for audit at the end of the financial year.
- Jennifer Best, in her capacity as Equipment Officer.
- Hilary Reid in her role as designated Child Protection Officer.
- Norma Bowman our co-ordinator at Sport NI
- Clare Bloomfield and Lesley Spence for their continuing work with the web site.
- Helen McConnell the PRO.
- Lorraine McKeown our pleasant and helpful administrative assistant, who was on maternity leave and wished her well.
- Robert Nelson the Development Officer for his work with the youth of the organisation.
- Last but by no means least the Clubs, the backbone of our great hockey tradition in Ulster.

Our Sponsors this year were:

- Bank of Ireland - senior schools competitions and U16 & U18 Interprovincial Teams.
- Winemark for Ulster Shield.
- Kukri for skorts for under age squads.
- Belfast Telegraph Senior Schools Cup.
- Eurosport player of match in all schools finals.
- Lisburn City Council.
- Castlereagh Borough Council.

Thanks were recorded to them for their generous support that was greatly Appreciated.

She pointed out that next season will be the last under the guidance of the UWHU but hopefully there will be a smooth transition to the amalgamated body and hockey will continue to flourish.

Notice was given of the Presentation Lunch at Lisnagarvey @ 12.30 on 1st June.

3. Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

These having been circulated with the Agenda were taken as read and adopted by the meeting. Proposed by Ms. Mary Swan and seconded by Mrs. Alyson Douglas.

4. Annual Report.

This, having been circulated prior to the Meeting was adopted by the meeting. Proposed by Mrs. Lynn Mills and seconded by Mrs. Edna Gribben.

Finance Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mrs. Marietta Lammey asked the members to accept the Financial Statement which had been prepared and tabled, pending the auditing of the UWHU Accounts. She explained, that due to family commitments, the Treasurer had had to resign her position within the Union in January and, as a result the accounts had not been prepared in time for them to be audited before the AGM. This was agreed.

5. Adoption

The adoption of the Financial Statement was proposed by Ms Kathryn Mark and seconded by Mrs. Anne Shiels.

6. Elections

The following were elected unopposed:-

President Elect:	Ms Mary Swan
Hon Secretary	Mrs Norma Gartside
Hon Match Secretary	Mrs Anne Shiels
Hon Treasurer	Mrs Molly Martin
Public Relations Officer	Ms Helen McConnell

For the purposes of the next elections Ms. Mary Swan, Mrs. Jennifer Patterson and Mr. Neville Gibson were nominated as tellers.

Council - The following were elected:-

Mrs Ruth Sutherland	Mrs Jennifer Patterson
Ms Clare Bloomfield	Mrs Lynn Mills
Mrs Irene Black	Mrs Paula McIlwaine
Mrs Alyson Douglas	Ms Hilary Reid
Mrs Jennifer Best	

Eight Club representatives from Leagues Premier, Senior 1 and 2 were elected. Only one Club representative from Senior 3 and 4 was elected thus leaving a vacancy. There were no nominations from the floor.

Senior Selectors: No nominations had been received. Mrs Gerry Gray was proposed from the floor by Belfast Harlequins and seconded by North Down and duly elected. Three vacancies remained.

U21 Selectors: No nominations had been received. Mrs Linda McElvenny was proposed by Belfast Harlequins and seconded by Greenisland; Ms Lynsey McVicker was proposed by Ballymoney and seconded by Portadown. Both were duly elected. Two vacancies remained.

Junior Selectors Mrs Kate Graham was duly elected. Mr. Ricky Lee was proposed and seconded from the floor and duly elected. Two vacancies remained.

Disciplinary Committee: Ms. Yvonne Wells was duly elected as the Premier/Senior 1 and 2 leagues representative. There was a vacancy for a representative from Senior 3 and 4 leagues.

7. Schools Elections and Amendments to Rules

These elections and Rules changes having been passed at the Schools AGM, were unanimously ratified by the meeting.

8. Rules changes

8.1... General Rules changes were passed with 33 votes for and 3 abstentions.
Rule change regarding Registration was passed unanimously.
The Proposed new rule was passed with 31 votes for; 3 against and 2 abstentions.

8.2.1 The proposal to increase the affiliation fees as follows:-

- (a) Club Affiliation, Registration, League and Cup fees for one team would increase to £450.00.
 - (b) Irish Junior Cup, Senior Cup and May Costley Cup fees would increase to £75.00.
 - (c) Veterans fees and under age league fees would remain the same.
 - (d) UWHU school affiliation fee would remain at £50.00.
 - (e) UWHU Schools Cup and High School Competitions would increase to £25.00.
 - (f) IHA School affiliation fee would increase to £80.00.
- was passed.

1. General Rules for all Competitions

Page 10 (14)

Delete 'semi-finals and'

Insert at the end 'and the Ulster Umpires Association respectively'.

2. Registration

Page 11 (18a) The Secretary of every Club... of their registered players by 15th October.

Proposed amendment Page 11 (18a)

Insert 'The secretary of every Club...on or before 1 October, a typewritten list of the names and addresses and date of birth, on an official Registration Form, of the members of each team entered for any competition... by 15th October.

Proposed new Rule, Page 11, insert new rule (18a) (i): A player who has not attained the age of fourteen years shall not be eligible to play for an adult team.

9. Irish Hockey Association AGM

The most important items from a UWHU perspective for the Irish AGM were the proposed changes to Irish Cup Competitions. The Hon. Match Secretary gave a detailed report on how these proposed changes would affect the UWHU club

calendar. She asked clubs to pay particular attention to the competition entry forms which were due to come out in September.

She also stressed the importance of clubs registering their players on the IHA Link as this information would form an important part in player participation in All Ireland Competitions during the forthcoming season.

10. Any Other Business

- (a) The President was pleased to present (belatedly), to Mrs Jennifer Patterson, the Winifred Templeton Trophy which she had been awarded in 2007 in recognition of her huge contribution to Ulster Hockey over a period of ten years as Hon. Secretary.
- (b) Ms Catherine McTavish stated that while she was pleased to note the healthy balance shown on the Financial Statement she regretted the fact that no opening balance was available.
She also stated that she was disappointed to note the apparent lack of interest by clubs in the running of the Union; this being demonstrated by the shortage of nominations for positions on selection committees. In conclusion she congratulated the President and Council for their hard work throughout the season.
- (c) Ms Clare Jones from Holywood Ladies wished to propose a change to the Rule regarding the registration of a synthetic pitch for Premier and Senior 1, 2 and 3 games. She was advised that such a rule change must be lodged with the Union before 30th April prior to an AGM. She was, however, given the opportunity to speak on the matter. She stated that the Holywood Ladies club, having been recently promoted, was finding it difficult to acquire the regular use of a synthetic pitch for home matches, hence the request for a rule change. Other club representatives could empathise with this but indicated that there was little that could be done other than to make contact with leisure centres and other clubs in their area.

There being no further business the President thanked members for attending and the meeting closed.

Approved _____ Dated the _____ day of _____ 2009.

Mrs Ann Jameison, President