



MINUTES OF EHL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE	15 August 2001	HELD AT	The Stadium, MK
PRESENT	David Alcock (DA) Jo Baker (JB) Stephen Barlow (SB) Kevin Blanks (KB) Roger Carter (RC) Jon Copp (JC) Ian Thomas (IT) Richard Wyatt (RW)	APOLOGIES	Mike Hamilton (MH) Bev Barstow (BB)

DA welcomed Jon and Roger to their first meeting.

1. MINUTES OF MEETING, 10 APRIL 2001

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate record of that meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i. Clubs' Marketing Seminar

RFW advised that this had proved difficult to prioritise, particularly as the delivery of such seminars is not an area within our expertise.

IT reported that he had made contact with the Sports Sponsorship Advisory Services (SSAS) – associated with the CCPR who have arranged seminars for other sports.

It was agreed that we should meet with the representatives of SSAS to discuss the content of a seminar at our next meeting. This will necessitate feedback from clubs. The seminar will be scheduled for the end of the season at Milton Keynes.

ii. World Class Water Programme

RW gave an update on progress based on an audit carried out by Colin Horsley.

It was noted that some clubs were experiencing difficulties in hiring facilities in both terms of cost and pitch availability. RW advised that Colin Horsley or Mike Hamilton will endeavour to assist clubs in this regard.

It was further noted that contracts for venues may not include guaranteed pitch time for local clubs however lottery audits will highlight if facilities are not being used for their intended purpose.

KB was advised to contact Colin Horsley to discuss specific issues relating to women's clubs.

iii. Awards

KB and JC reported that these have proved very popular with recipients pleased to receive awards decided by their peers. SB advised that the number of post season events at Milton Keynes involving EHL clubs meant that awards could be made on suitable occasions.

RC suggested that there should be awards for qualifiers from the Inter League Tournament.

IT suggested that there should be an end of season EHL party.

iv. Formation of Committee

SB advised that the process involved in the selection of club representatives for the committee following the end of the season means that there is a lack of continuity in the work of the committee.

It was agreed that the nomination and voting process should take place prior to the end of the season in 2001-2002, whilst accepting that issues in terms of promotion/relegation will not have been resolved by this time.

4. PERFORMANCE UNIT UPDATE

The updated programme for the men's and women's senior squads for 2001-2002 were circulated.

It was noted that the men will now be playing in South Africa from 1-5 October and provisionally tests against Netherlands in England during the week 15-19 October. All of this activity is mid-week.

JC wished to record his thanks to Mike Hamilton for taking the time to discuss the South Africa games with him prior to agreeing to the tour.

It was noted that MH is proposing a meeting with Premier Division Clubs to discuss performance issues on Sunday 11 November 2001 at Milton Keynes. Information from this meeting will be disseminated to non-Premier Division clubs who are unable to attend.

It was further noted that the policy that Regional Coaches may not coach EHL clubs had been revised.

5. PRIORITY LIST 2002-2003

It was noted that there is little men's international activity during this period. However the Women's World Cup is in Australia in December 2002.

MH is proposing six EHL Premier Division matches over 4 weekends during October/November 2002 to fit around international commitments. The remaining 12 matches plus play-offs will be played in 2003.

KB advised that he believes that women's clubs will want to play with their international players but requested a league cup competition for clubs on dates when international players are unavailable.

6. EHL UMPIRE ASSOCIATION

SB reported that there had been a big increase in the number of candidates for the EHL Umpires' Panel proposed through Regional Associations.

IT reported that Kookaburra will be providing EHL umpires with kit for 2001-2002 season.

7. EHA WEBSITE

IT reported that the site is currently undertaking a major revision and the EHL area will be improved for the start of the season.

8. EHL 2nd XIs

DA advised that this matter should be discussed at the pre-season EHL Clubs Meetings.

9. EHL CUP FOR MENS PREMIER DIVISION CLUBS

It was agreed that this should be held during February/March 2002 when there are no Premier Division fixtures due to the World Cup. It was noted that an entry fee to cover the cost of umpires and delegates would be payable.

It was agreed that the competition would be an opportunity to trial rules experiments as proposed by FIH. Details of these were received by EHA in May 2001 with a request for feedback by October 2001. This has proved impracticable and RW will ascertain if the FIH would value feedback after this date.

10. ACCOMMODATION BUDGET

SB advised that the Choice Hotels group will continue to provide the majority of accommodation for EHL clubs with other hotels used where Choice have no coverage.

He reported that the cost has increased however there are fewer overnight trips required and we are therefore able to keep the league entry fee at £1,000.

II. CORRESPONDENCE & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. Fixture changes

The following fixture switches were agreed:

Chelmsford v Firebrands

Loughborough v Southgate

In addition it was agreed that the Surbiton/Loughborough fixture scheduled for Easter Sunday 31 March may be moved to Good Friday 29 March. The Committee agreed that, with the approval of both clubs, Mens Premier division matches scheduled for Easter Sunday may be played on any day over that weekend.

The Committee also agreed to support clubs where possible if they wished to reschedule games on a weekend where both clubs agree and the move is designed to improve the profile of the match. (eg Canterbury's request to play a Sunday match on the evening of the Saturday beforehand.)

ii. Request from Barford Tigers for home clubs to provide medical cover

It was agreed that we should look to assist clubs in the provision of a risk assessment for EHL matches to ascertain a policy for medical cover.

iii. Disciplinary Code

It was noted that a request for EHL umpires to form a national disciplinary panel to cover EHL matches had been considered by Regional Disciplinary Administration.

It had been agreed that this should not be introduced for 2001-2002, however it may be done for the following season.

iv. Medical Cover

It was agreed that we should ascertain from clubs what medical cover they currently provide for their players to ascertain if an EHL policy could be brokered.

v. New EHA structure

It was noted that the Committee will now report directly to the EHA Management Board as an implementation group under the new EHA structure.

vi. League Review

DA reported that Mike Corby (President) had requested a review of the EHL. This had been agreed by EHA Management Committee when the structure was amended in 1999.

Members were asked to consider the process for this prior to our next meeting. It was noted that, as an implementation group, the committee may be involved in the collation of information however a separate policy group will examine this although this may include members of the committee.

vii. Pre-season meetings with clubs

It was agreed that these should be held midweek.

SB has arranged the following:

Monday 10 September, 7.30pm at Bisham Abbey (Vansittart Room)

Wednesday 12 September, 7.30pm at Belper HC

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd October 2001, 6pm at Milton Keynes