

NOTES

HWA PRESIDENTS' FORUM

held 21 July 2010
at Perth Hockey Stadium, Bentley

OPENING:

The CEO opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. A special welcome was extended to new club presidents who had not previously attended a Presidents' Forum.

AHG COMPETITION BALL ATTENDANTS:

The HWA position paper on AHG Competition Ball Attendants was tabled as circulated with the agenda. The CEO stated that HWA had recently been alerted to some concerns within the hockey community regarding children being used as ball attendants. These concerns centred on the safety issues associated with young individuals acting as ball attendants and the fact that young ball attendants were being used for games scheduled after 7:30 pm on weeknights meaning they weren't getting home until late.

The CEO highlighted that there was no record of any injuries to ball attendants to date and that there was no obligation to use children as ball attendants. It was also highlighted that clubs needed to ensure that they assigned appropriate individuals to these kinds of roles. Various solutions were discussed including discontinuing the use of ball attendants, and setting a minimum age and mandatory safety equipment. It was felt that the best way forward on this issue was for HWA to develop guidelines for ball attendants that recommended a minimum age, minimum protective equipment, and specified that where matches are scheduled after 7:30pm on a weeknight that clubs consider using older individuals to act as ball attendants. It was felt that a set of HWA Guidelines was the best option as it covered HWA's duty of care obligations and still allowed parents of Ball Attendants to have their children attend games after 7:30pm if they wish.

Action: CEO

The supply of Ball Attendants was further discussed with some of the AHG Clubs present finding it difficult to source Ball Attendants for all their games. The prospect of these clubs contacting Non-AHG Clubs to source Ball Attendants was raised with the Non-AHG Clubs present stating that they often had younger players that would be eager to help out. It was suggested that AHG and Non-AHG Clubs liaise with each other via email to secure a larger pool of Ball Attendants. It was also felt that this would improve the safety of Ball Attendants as an enthusiastic individual will be more attentive and less likely to get hurt.

Action: HWA Metro Clubs

SMS RESULTS:

Teams sending their results to HWA via SMS were discussed with clubs questioning the reasoning behind this requirement. The CEO advised that it was a promotional strategy with the information received used to populate the results section of the local newspaper. Given the significant amount of work that goes into this process it was questioned whether the outcome was worth the work. The clubs highlighted that most players either view results on HockeyNet or contact players from other clubs to obtain results and as such questioned the value of putting the results in the paper if it was just for player information. The prospect of only listing the results of the top levels of the competition in the newspaper was discussed and clubs questioned why fines were applied for not texting in results when it was such a minor infraction and the fines resulted in a significant amount of administrative work.

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The CEO stated that he will consult more widely with all HWA stakeholders and then review the compulsory texting of results to HWA.

Action: CEO

VETERANS COMPETITIONS CHALLENGES CUPS:

Newman Knights noted that Challenge Cups had been discontinued in the Veteran's division of the competition as a result of a vote conducted at Council in 2009 however some of the veterans players like the idea and would like the Challenge Cup reinstated in the Veterans division. Challenge Cups were discussed at length with those present highlighting that generally there was a 50/50 split of players and clubs that supported the idea of Challenge Cups and those that didn't. Ways in which Challenge Cups could be incorporated into the competition without holding a dedicated round were discussed with the CEO stating that Challenge Cups were an administrative nightmare for HWA when only half the teams involved wanted to participate and those not really interested pulling out at the last minute. The CEO also stated that this issue had come full circle on several occasions and that there needed to be an all or nothing approach to this aspect of the competition. The CEO will engage the Veterans Committee to investigate the feasibility and support for Veterans Challenge Cups and will discuss the fixturing implications of holding a less formal Challenge Cup with HWA staff.

Action: CEO

HWA YELLOW/RED CARD MONITORING/GIVING OF GREEN CARDS:

Newman Knights queried why Green Cards were issued by umpires feeling that they should be scrapped as they interrupted the flow of the game and were creeping into the infringements that yellow and red cards were issued for. The CEO highlighted that Green Cards were part of FIH and HA rules which apply to HWA competitions and as such would not be scrapped. Most clubs in attendance felt that the Green Card was a good tool that allowed a progression of penalties.

Newman Knights also reported an issue where players were being issued Red Cards one week and then taking to the field again the next. Other clubs also reported similar experiences noting that the issue stemmed from Red Cards not being entered into HockeyNet and therefore players are not receiving the notification from HWA and are playing the next week. It was noted that Red Cards are recorded on match reports however these are not forwarded onto HWA. The possibility of clubs being able to report against each other on HockeyNet was discussed and it was pointed out that clubs also had a responsibility to review HockeyNet after each game to ensure the correct details have been recorded. The CEO acknowledged that this issue was a significant problem and will have the matter investigated.

Action: CEO

TRAINING BALLS AT PHS:

During 2010 training balls had been provided for teams training at PHS. The CEO outlined that over the course of the season HWA had lost over 240 balls and as a result of these unsustainable losses the scheme is being discontinued. The CEO highlighted that this is a disappointing outcome for HWA and that when the current supply of balls runs out they will not be replaced.

INCLUSIVE SPORT:

The CEO informed the meeting that HWA and up to six metro clubs will be running an inclusive hockey program during the next three school holidays. This will be a pilot program run with a view to making it a permanent program with more clubs involved. It was pointed out that this will not be a wheelchair hockey program but a modified version of the field game and that the first round of the program will be run at PHS as it falls outside of the hockey season with future rounds being held at club venues. The CEO also outlined that both DSR and HWA were excited about this program. The need for HWA to tap into existing inclusive sport resources and be proactive rather than reactive was also highlighted.

PHS 1 SCOREBOARD:

It was queried what was wrong with the scoreboard on PHS 1 and what was being done to fix it. The CEO provided an update advising that a suitable company had been located to repair the scoreboard and this would be undertaken in the near future.

REPORTING OF UMPIRING DUTIES:

WASPS advised that on some occasions the notification of umpiring duties were not getting through to the appropriate people and as a result sometimes umpires were not showing up at their duties. WASPS asked

that HWA consider sending umpiring duty emails to more than one address at each club and consider other ways of advising clubs of the umpiring duties. The CEO felt that there was some element of personal responsibility in this issue and that club office bearers were responsible for ensuring that club emails were received and read if they were absent. Whitfords advised that they have a generic email addresses for their various club positions. These addresses automatically forward received emails through to the relevant people ensuring that someone at the club always receives notifications. Whitfords outlined that this system works well and should be considered by the other clubs present.

CONCENSUS AT MEETINGS:

Whitfords noted that achieving consensus at Council Meetings was always difficult and suggested that HWA consider conducting surveys prior to meetings. The information gained from these surveys could then be brought to a meeting and assist in achieving a consensus. HWA could also encourage clubs to put forward items of business well in advance so that a survey could be conducted and the information brought to the meeting. The CEO pointed out that HWA already uses Survey Monkey for various surveys and would consider this course of action.

2009/2010 ATTRITION DATA:

2009/2010 Attrition Data was circulated at the meeting and will be circulated with the meeting notes.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Presidents' Forum will be conducted on 13 October 2010 commencing at 6:30pm in the Eastman Lounge at Perth Hockey Stadium.