

## **Minutes of the YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
HNZ Offices, Mt Eden, Auckland**

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### **PRESENT**

Andrew Brydon, Nicola Connell, Paul Collins, Denise Hill, Alan Patterson-Kane, Rochelle Retter, Hilary Stubbs, Pauline Weir

### **APOLOGIES**

Paul Tessier

### **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Add to end of minutes that Jonn Nicholson and Simon Norton were thanked for their time on the Youth Council.

Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

North Otago/Otago issue with Hatch/Collier players. Pauline mentioned that this was discussed at the Southern region meeting.

Denise made the comment that the match balls recommendation needed further thought. As to whether the Association should on charge the cost to teams. It was recommended that this be implemented in 2012 instead of 2011.

Denise asked whether the minutes would be going on the website and out to Associations. Nicola responded that yes they would be, and apologized that the previous minutes had not been sent out.

### **IAN FRANCIS**

Hilary asked Ian Francis to speak about his role.

Ian spoke about his role and what it covers. He then asked the council if they had any questions for him.

Rochelle asked about whether the Small Sticks programme and whether there is 8 a side formats or not.

Ian briefly spoke about the Small Sticks programme and his understanding of how the progression works.

Rochelle asked why we are piloting the programme instead of rolling out to everyone.

Ian responded and explained that we want to work with Associations who are looking at change. We can't roll out to all Associations as some already have successful programmes in place.

Paul and Denise commented on how the pilot of Fun Sticks worked in their Association but they didn't want to pilot the next one because they have programmes in place already.

Pauline wanted the programme to run and to increase participation in Southland hockey. They currently don't have anything to promote the sport to young children in Southland.

Ian said he'll talk to Pauline outside this meeting.

It was asked why more Associations can't pilot the programme. Ian explained that we are putting the collateral around the programme such as equipment, coaching resources, recruitment resources. It was explained that there is a cost to HNZ so we are limited by our investments. Hockey New Zealand

is trying to give as much value and support as we can to the 10 pilot associations. Next year we will be aiming to roll it out to all Associations.

Hilary explained that the Youth Council has a vested interest in these programmes as they are aimed at Youth.

Paul Collins talked about the communication process about getting information out as it has to go through so many people to get to where it needs to go.

Wants to know how we are going to get the message more directly to primary schools and the non hockey community.

Ian responded to Paul's points and explained how we are a couple of steps away from talking directly with the 'consumer'. We will be looking at getting a membership database.

Ian explained that every sport is aiming for the primary school audience as it is an opportunity to grab players for life. Kiwisport has helped HNZ in this, and we are now talking to primary schools directly

Denise explained that Associations have a similar issue with databases and how schools and clubs won't pass on their details.

Ian explained that we are looking at an online member management system so that we can get a player database that clubs, Associations and HNZ can access.

There was a brief discussion around Facebook and Social Media and how it is a good way to get people involved. It was asked why Hockey New Zealand doesn't have a Facebook page and Ian explained that we are looking into social media.

Paul Collins discussed Funsticks and how it was a whole new concept for players and parents as it was a different paradigm - do activities, cross-sports, then finish with a game. Paul explained that the hockey paradigm is that kids come along, play a game go home. He asked Ian how Hockey New Zealand would handle this.

Ian said that we have thought about this issue and that we did get feedback from Tauranga parents and the majority of it was good.

Ian explained that Fun Sticks is a fundamental skills programme first then play the games later.

Ian then moved on to explain what his main projects are at the moment. Small Sticks Participation Programme, Domestic Tournament Review, Affiliation Fees and cost compared to other sports, summer hockey, Regional development programme.

There was a brief discussion around the cost to play hockey and how in some places hockey is not considered expensive compared to other sports.

Rochelle asked about summer hockey. Ian said that we are looking at putting more resources into summer hockey to attract more players. We do collect summer hockey numbers now, but they are not that accurate.

Paul asked whether we knew of any Associations/clubs that collect fees over the entire season rather than in one lump sum.

Ian and Nicola both responded that we didn't know of any. There was a brief discussion around how that would work, as there may be cashflow issues. It was questioned how many players do we lose because they cannot pay their fees in a lump sum.

It was generally agreed that it may be a good way of keeping the 19-35 year olds involved in the sport, especially students if they can pay for play weekly.

Paul suggested that HNZ affiliation fees could be done the same way e.g. paid over six months.

Denise suggested that it would be good to do research on Associations reserves to find out if Associations could pay their fees when they are due.

Discussion on Regional Development Programme and how it works, and what Ian is going to be looking at. Ian explained that there is an issue with reporting, and the need to make it more outcome focused.

Rochelle explained how she used to do school visits and the need to coach the teachers as well so they can continue to play hockey at the school.

Ian asked how the Youth Council works and what HNZ can do to assist them.

Hilary explained that the Youth Council achieves a lot from their meetings; however we do need to look at meeting dates to align with the new HNZ structure of AGM and Leaders conference.

The Youth Council makes recommendations to Hockey New Zealand on a number of matters, the majority of which is hidden from public view, for example tournament administration, dispensation requests, rule changes etc.

They also put forward recommendations to Hockey New Zealand for the AGM and Leaders Conferences but sometimes there are rejected by Associations.

Members of the Youth Council attend the Youth Tournaments to see how things are running and discuss any issues or concerns with coaches, managers, administrators etc.

Last year the Youth Council introduced a new initiative of having a Captains Meeting at each of the Under 18 Tournaments. This was facilitated by Youth Council members and was a great success.

The Youth Council does feel however that there is still a perception that some people don't know what the Youth Council do.

Hilary mentioned that there was some confusion as to where the Youth Council fits in the decision making process of the sport as a whole.

Discussion around what the Youth Council needs to do to ensure that Associations get the full reasoning of why the Youth Council wants to put forward their recommendations.

There is an issue around timing so that the Youth Council can get their recommendation done in time to fit with the Hockey Leaders Conference.

There was a discussions around consistency with regard to tournaments and how over the past 6 years there have been two other tournament reviews which the Youth Council was not involved in, which undermines the Youth Council and the decision making process.

Ian summarized what HNZ would do to improve the Youth Council:

- More communication from HNZ re decision making times - HLC and AGM
- Visibility of Youth Council at tournaments (jackets)
- Domestic Tournament Review (Paul is on this one)

Ian talked about how we have to put a stake in the ground and we have to be seen to be leading the sport. We need to make decisions and need to stick to them.

Denise questioned why the Youth Council is required, as she was not sure what the Youth Council does that HNZ couldn't do.

It was explained that a big part of the work involved is with secondary school tournaments as the Youth Council are the main contact for secondary schools - Associations don't have the knowledge.

The Youth Council is an excellent tool to assist Nicola with her work. The main issue is that we need to continue to get dedicated people onto the Youth Council.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Marian College - Earthquake Dispensation

Go with the NZSSSC guidelines in terms of Canterbury players transferring schools.

Discussion over who this affects.

We will acknowledge her concerns, and Andrew will contact Marian College.

Response - In principle if they are unable to attend should we keep a spot for them in 2012? Yes we should do this but need to work out the details. Will also do our utmost to get you there.

Financially we could waiver teams entry fees for the affected schools.

Keep in communication with the affected schools. Communicate that we are doing the utmost possible to try and get these teams to tournaments. Teams can apply for financial assistance to cover entry fees.

Nicola will talk with Nicki McDonald about whether schools can apply for assistance from the Hockey Foundation. Funding could also be available for Canterbury representative teams.

## **NATIONAL AGE GROUP TOURNAMENTS**

### **A)**

Over past few years there have been issues over which Association a secondary school player is eligible for.

Discussion over whether 5.4 d) needed to be clarified to allow for players playing for a school team in a club competition in one Association and a club team in another competition.

Recommendation that 5.4 d) should be removed from the rules as it complicates matters.

### **B) Captains Meeting**

To be included in Host Agreements and host responsibilities.

Leavers Fund to be discussed with Nicki McDonald and Hockey Foundation.

## **NATIONAL DOMESTIC TOURNAMENT REVIEW**

Paul gave an overview of the review process so far.

There was a general discussion on the review.  
Paul went through recommendations level by level.

### **U13's**

Length of Tournament

Discussion around the length and the rules around not playing more games in a certain number of times. Andrew mentioned there are SPARC rules around player health and safety and possibly FIH regulations.

We have modified the draw already to shorten the tournament. But need further look at whether the draw can be shortened further bearing in mind of the rules.

The Youth Council made the following points:

- **The YC feels that it is important that there is time between games and there is equality in the current draw.** It has previously been shorter but there was inequality in the draw.
- **Umpires/officials playing at one tournament and then umpiring at another tournament. Concern there would be an overlap of players at U18 and U15.**
- **We might be asking some 14-15 year olds to spend their entire holidays at tournament playing and umpiring.**
- Suggestion to perhaps start U15 on Sunday and finish on Friday so it doesn't overlap.
- With three tournaments in October there would be overlap issues with parents as well as officials.
- Placing more precedence on age group tournaments instead of secondary school.

### **U15's**

There was concern that we were simply moving congestion from July to October. Logistics in terms of uniforms and equipment is an issue with moving U15's to October.

Issue with players playing in both U18's in July and U15's in October. The intention is that this will not be allowed by introducing a rule on the number of tournaments a player may participate in in one year.

There was concern that Associations would get players to play in both tournaments if there was no rule in place.

The Youth Council made the following points:

- **If U18s and U15s are separated, then YC recommends a rule that prevents players playing in both.**
- **YC in favour of U15 being in first week of October school holidays, Sunday-Friday**
- Issue with October timeframe in terms of getting management staff.
- Will extend the season for U15 players. Associations should shift their season to fit with the tournament.
- Advantage of starting rep season later and having trials later after players have been training for a while.
- Issue of sharing uniforms/resources.
- Would possibly get more umpires at U15 tournament and they may possibly choose to umpire at U13s as well.

### **U18's**

There was a general discussion around whether or not the Youth Council are in favour of Under 18's becoming Regional.

**YC recommends Under 18's should be in July for both Regional and Association team.**

It was agreed that every option has its pros and cons.

### **Allocations**

To be discussed at next meeting. Brief discussion around allocations and it was agreed that cost is a major factor.

### **Secondary School Qualification Process**

Brief discussion around why it was in the review. It was noted that the Review Committee would not be discussing this qualification process further during the review.

### **SECONDARY SCHOOL TOURNAMENT**

Nicola proposed that when the entry packs are sent out that schools are notified that Tier 4 Tournaments are 'first in, first served'. There was general consensus that first in first served is a good idea for this level of tournament.

### **YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS DATES AND FREQUENCY**

It was discussed that the March and May meetings should remain, however the timing of the November meeting needs to align with the Hockey Leaders Conference so that the Youth Council can provide feedback on any relevant recommendations.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

No general business.

Meeting closed 3.00pm.