

## **Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) Report to North HA AGM 13 June 2017**

### **The RCC has met on three occasions during the past year:**

(11 October, 2016, 10 January 2017 and 9 May 2017)

### **Main topics discussed have been:**

#### **EH Regional Strategy Consultations:**

EH have now held consultations with of the regions: North 26 September, Weetwood - Leeds and was well attended.

This was discussed at the October meeting and again at the January meeting when Sally Munday (SM) was in attendance. SM said that the consultations were invaluable, the views expressed at these consultations both oral and written are still being analysed. There were a number of common issues that emerged (check my previous RCC and NHA Council notes – and notes to Yorkshire).

Communication and pace of change was a continuing issue, with concerns raised in what has been a transitional stage with the Single System-Player Pathway, and the needs to be addressed.

There were concerns over the treatment of Umpires and Officiating throughout the Regions, and the need for better joining up with the Regions, Counties and Leagues etc; I supported this with further verbal feedback.

The location of Lee valley as the main centre for National and International tournaments was raised. Whilst from the North, South or East was generally quite easy, it is challenging for those coming from the West.

SM said that growth in game was unlikely to come from the traditional 11 a side hockey, the biggest growth being seen is from those who preferred to play informally in a small sided game.

Concerns were raised about the improvement and retention of facilities (pitches), SM stressed the importance of clubs having a good relationship with their facility providers.

SM also asked RCC about the status of the Counties and Regions discussion paper as from the Roadshows there appeared to be a growing desire for a review of existing arrangements. Members agreed that these opinions had been voiced. It was accepted that there were a number of areas where the formal structures were not working satisfactorily, or indeed not at all, but regions had found it difficult to get any formalised expression for the need for change. The topic is to remain a standing agenda item.

#### **Role of Regions and Counties:**

(October meeting) The committee discussed the consultation paper; members reported that to date there had been a very limited response, with a number of discussions being planned. There was recognition of the issues raised in the paper. It was felt that adult leagues were generally well run, and met the needs of most clubs, although it was discussed about the disparity in league rules, (Men and Women's and different from Region to Region), some regulations are tiresome essentially the regulations on player eligibility at lower levels, and the restrictions on umpiring (Level 1 assessed and un-assessed).

#### **Red Card Changes Feedback:**

RCC recommended the introduction of the card changes throughout the structure; feedback is that the change has been well accepted.

#### **Appointment of the Audit Committee (January 2017):**

The membership of the Audit Committee was agreed by RCC and is: Andy Tapley (Chair), Mike Stoddard and Neville Wrench.

#### **Affiliation - Review of the 2016 process (January 2017):**

97% of clubs made payment on time this year compared with 83% last year. The total affiliation numbers were up, with rises in both junior and female affiliations; the men's numbers had remained static

**Funding – UK Sport and Sport England (January 2017):**

Sally Munday (SM) joined the meeting.

SM explained the background to the bidding process for the UK Sport and Sport England

Grants for 2017-21 and in particular the context of the final funding awarded compared to other Olympic sports.

EH is looking at the structure of the organisation in order to deliver the 2017 – 2021 strategy. Sport England's participation measure had now changed from Active People to Active Lifestyle to reflect the way in which people exercise.

UK Sport had maintained a joint gender approach to the men and women which it had not done for a number of other sports. The uplift of the UK Sport's funding was to increase the number in the next cohort of athletes.

RCC asked if there were any milestones; SM confirmed that there would be but they had yet to be agreed. The view of the men was that there is a high level of talent with the ability to medal in Tokyo but they would have to show progress in the next couple of years.

**Junior Competitions Review – Regional representations for the Working Group Junior Competitions Framework (JCFFG):**

RCC: Appointed Chris Todd and Dave Willenbruch to the group. North Members of the group are: Lewis Butcher, Queen Ethelburga's College and Bev Barstow, Wakefield HC and North girls' competitions organiser

**EH proposals regarding the motion passed at the AGM to review to governance structures.**

"This resolution proposes that England Hockey review the sport's current governance structure across the country so that it provides the best opportunity to develop the sport; increasing participation levels and the chances of sustained success at national and international level while safeguarding participants and giving members the best possible experience in the 21st century."

The next steps are being discussed by the Board currently, the the scope of the resolution will be rolled out.

**Meetings for the next year are:** 10 October 2017, 9 January 2018 and 8 May 2018.

Chris Reece:

RCC North HA Representative.