

A Structure Fit for the Future **Club Update - February 2021**

Our Relationship Manager, Barbara Reynolds has very kindly been regularly updating counties following West Transition Group meetings, but the Group thought it would be a good time to let clubs know the current situation.

There has been an enormous amount of work done by volunteers and EH staff around the country, including the West following last year's EH AGM vote, although at present little is in the public domain. In the next few weeks and months things will be finalised and available to all in the sport. These outputs will raise many valid questions and concerns that the Transition Group are committed to answering in a public forum as and when the final versions of anything are available. To avoid placing further time constraints on our volunteers we will not be responding to any requests for detailed information until the FINAL version of anything is available to all.

If you have any queries please email them to hockeywesatuksecretary@gmail.com and you can view the questions and replies when available by following this link: [FAQs - A Structure Fit for the Future](#).

To avoid any confusion please do not seek clarification from existing West HA Committees as they may not be in possession of the latest information. We would urge all to be patient while huge amounts of work are being undertaken behind the scenes. Regular updates will be issued to give more detail in the weeks to come.

Very little if anything will change from what was detailed in A Structure Fit for the Future documents and presentations and was overwhelmingly voted for at last year's EH AGM by West clubs and other members.

Governance

- England Hockey Articles subject to minor changes have been approved by the EH Board and will be voted on at the England Hockey AGM on 16th March.
- Area Articles are in final draft following extensive consultation with the Transition Groups. Area Regulations are being drafted to support these.

IT

- New EH website going through the final stages of testing prior to launch.
- Communication of approach to Competitions Management System imminent.

Adult Competitions

- League Transition Group formed with members from both existing leagues.
- Group now working on team placements, new committee structure, only one for both men and women, and roles together with several other matters.
- The men's league structure will adopt a 1-2-4-8 structure next season.
- New drafts of the League Regulations will hopefully be available in the next couple of weeks. These will be reviewed by the leagues and other bodies nationally before being finalised.
- Following discussions with Hockey Wales, Welsh clubs will still participate in the league as at present. It has been accepted that the league will fall under the governance of West Hockey with Hockey Wales having an observer role available to them in West Hockey governance. There will be Welsh representation on the Adult Competition committee.
- The Transition Group will work to ensure the new structure and league are ready for the start of what we hope will be an uninterrupted 21/22 season and where necessary, will be inviting relevant expertise onto the committee with an open recruiting policy.

Officiating

- Officiating Transition Group formed with a broad background in officiating.
- The structure of Officiating will change. At this stage it is proposed that all Officials will be invited to join the England Hockey Match Officials Club (brand name TBC) which will be the single membership body for Officials. The Officiating Group in the West will be part of West management and look after the appointments to leagues and the development of umpires working with local umpiring people.
- The Group has split into two streams. Those experienced in the club umpiring have been focusing on how to improve the current provisions for the club umpire. Those experienced in the appointment and progression have been focusing on improving the current system.

Junior Competitions

- New Junior Competition Transition Group formed and has carried out an audit of all Junior Club competition across the West, to help identify gaps in provision.
- Individual meetings with each County Junior Coordinator to confirm current delivery and what Counties wish to retain.

- New Junior Competition Framework shared with County Junior Coordinators. County Junior Competition Coordinators invited to next Transition Meeting (3 March 2021) to discuss the proposal.
- Transition Group to work on a proposal for a new Area Leagues (U14 & U16 and if demand U18).
- Plan to formulate and sent out a Club Survey in March to gauge demand for the new Area Leagues.
- New West Junior Competition Chair role & Junior Competition Organiser role to be advertised in the future.
- Agreed County representation on the new Junior Competition Committee.
- School Competitions will be discussed once the new School Competition Framework has been finalised.

Discipline

- National Discipline Panel has been reviewing the Code of Discipline to align to the new Areas. Initially some minor variations to the code have been agreed.
- In the future, there will be an Area Discipline Administrator (ADA) and pool of Assistant Area Discipline Administrators (AADA).
- Role descriptions will be available shortly and it is hoped that there will be interest from the existing County Discipline Administrators as well as other volunteers.

Masters

- West Transition work to begin soon – following national update.

Keith Dingle
West HA President