

MASTERS ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING

MONDAY 4TH MARCH 2019

HELD AT NATIONAL MASTERS TOURNAMENT (HAMILTON)



Present: Tania Cassidy (TC), Tama Jones (HNZ), Lee Munt (LM), Anil Nathoo (AN), Sandra Partridge (HNZ), and Nicki Sayers (NS)

Meeting commenced at 5.00pm

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Matters arising from previous minutes
 - National Masters was used as selection for Trans-Tasman lead by HNZ.
 - Masters Selection Policy was created and ratified by MAG.
 - Selection process established for 2019 with consideration to short lead in time to Trans-Tasman
 - Feedback to be sought after National Masters from those involved

3) National Masters Tournament

HNZ Update

SP/TJ acknowledged there has been some issues this year that have had a significant impact on the tournament. Both were new to the national Masters tournament which led to several decisions being made that in hindsight could have been made differently.

Split Venue

Due to the record number of teams entered it could not be held at a 3-turf venue. Late notification via the host Association on the unavailability of satellite turfs in Hamilton (St Pauls could not confirm relaying would be done in time and St Peters and Diocesan were unavailable during the week) which meant another option was required at relatively short notice.

There was consideration to have either Rotorua or Counties (similar distances from Hamilton) as overflow venues with the final decision based on Auckland's traffic and significant roadworks occurring near Pukekohe. Rotorua also provided added value as a 'destination' place.

Draw

This tournament was the largest domestic hockey tournament hosted in New Zealand with 81 teams taking part which brings challenges, the draw being one of these. HNZ acknowledge the disruption these late changes created for some teams. It was brought to our attention that there were a small number of teams that had a late game followed by an early game the next day which we missed when putting the draw together and felt it was important to change. The draw and subsequent changes were put out to the wider HNZ community team as well as the host association for feedback but not the MAG.

Small number of team entries

With regards to the W50s (7 teams), 55s (2 teams) and 60s (5 teams). With only 2 teams in the 55s grade it was necessary for this grade to combine with another. Originally this had been done with the 50s however upon reflection and after some constructive feedback primarily around numbers of games and balance of the draw it was decided that combining 55s and 60s would provide a more balanced outcome. At that time, we acknowledged that this will not be ideal for everyone, but we felt it was the best approach in the wider context of the tournament.

General Comments

AN informed the group that the Waikato Physio had pulled out (early in the week) and that the North Harbour Physio's (arranged by the North Harbour teams) had come to an arrangement to help fill the gap temporarily. AN also asked if there was an opportunity for more watering of turfs as they were particularly dry and posed an issue for player safety. LM noted that there was an issue with the water-pump, but it has now been fixed.

Discussion was held around the share size of the tournament and what changes, if any, may need to occur to maintain a quality experience. If it stays as one tournament the number of associations with enough turfs to host may be limited and smaller associations may feel aggravated at missing out on hosting. The decision was to go out to the wider Masters Community via the tournament survey to gauge a better understanding of what is important to our stakeholders.

Action Point/s

1. HNZ/MAG to develop a clear overview of what information/decisions should flow through the group
2. HNZ to establish an appropriate deadline well in advance as part of the tournament operations plan with regards to confirmation of turf availability from host associations.
3. HNZ/MAG to add a statement within the appropriate documentation outlining the process when there are low team entries in any given grade/s.
4. HNZ/MAG to develop survey questions to gain clear insights to help shape National Masters moving forward.

Recommendations

1. The final draft of the draw is to be circulated to the MAG for ratification
2. Any aspects of the draw or draw changes affecting specific teams will require appropriate consultation prior to a decision being reached.

4) MAG – Regional Alignment

TJ brought this topic forward as a continued discussion from a previous meeting. As stated in the Terms of Reference, in two years (30th September 2019) there is a scheduled review of the Terms of Reference as well as the term conclusion of two members positions. This provided an opportunity to amend the structure of the group to better align geographically. The proposal is to expand the number of members by one to include a representative from the central North Island. By doing so the group will be in a stronger position to achieve the stated purpose and intended outcomes.

Action Point/s

1. HNZ to amend MAG Terms of Reference and circulate for ratification as required

5) Trans-Tasman Challenge Tournament – Quick Update

New selection process was in place led by Convenor of Selectors, a new selection policy, and a wider group of independent selectors.

Expressions of interest were sought from players wishing to be considered for Trans-Tasman prior to the tournament. A process was established to allow uniform sizes/qty to be collated prior to National team announcements. This seemed to be tracking well.

6) Date & venue for next meeting

Scheduled for 8 April via Skype - survey findings / TT Update

Meeting Closed at approximately 6.10pm