

## SPORT COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee met on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 10:30am on Zoom.

**Present:** Chris Schanschieff (Sports Committee Chairman – CS – 1N), Deborah Henderson (DH - 10), Jody Wells (JW - 5), Susan Clarke (SC - 12), Jonathan Hall (JH - 8), Marcus Cook (MC - 6), Nick Pears (NP - 2), Sally Garland-Jones (SGJ – Invited member), Mike McKaughan (MM – Invited member), Ian Silk (IS - 9), Sean Price (SP - 4), Rob Taylor (RT - 11) and Greg Evans (GE – 1S).

**In attendance:** Mark Brotherton (Director of Education - MSB) and Fran Hide (Sport Events Manager - FH).

### **2021-2022 events**

Autumn term events opened for bookings on 10<sup>th</sup> May. There have been a lot of bookings with some venues already full. This includes girls' hockey, boys' football, rugby festivals. Events are being planned as normal, any adjustments will be made nearer the time, if required.

There will be a new boys' small schools football event running at Charterhouse School.

The gymnastics will launch in September, once more guidance is released on indoor events.

The badminton is moving to late November/December, instead of early January.

IAPS will organise a new cross-country event which may be at the end of the autumn term or early summer term.

Spring term dates will go live on the website on Monday 7 June, but bookings won't open until Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. This will allow schools to put dates in their diary and plan for some changes, especially with netball.

A provisional date for the swimming finals next summer has been secured with the London Aquatics Centre. As soon as this is confirmed, it will be announced, and the qualifiers organised.

We are looking for a new venue for chess & the U13 netball finals so if any schools are interested in hosting, we would be happy to hear from them.

The netball finals will all be on separate days next year, which will allow different schools to host a finals day.

### **District Feedback**

- **District 1S** There have been positive cases within club cricket. Schools are unsure about whether they should deem it as "close contact" or whether Public Health should assess this and inform schools who should isolate. The DfE hotline should advise schools on this. Suggested schools deal with this on a case-by-case basis.
- **District 1N** Some schools are already playing fixtures. With careful planning they worked very well. More schools are starting fixtures after the 17<sup>th</sup> May. Some playing netball. Schools are playing very locally to minimise time on coaches. No match teas are being provided. Discussions around playing fixtures with maintained schools, some want to increase their links with state schools, but they are not able to give the time or staffing to playing matches. Lots more girls turning to girls' cricket and dropping rounders. Desire for more coaching opportunities for girl's cricket.

- **District 2** Schools are playing fixtures and allowing home supporters to attend. Some talking about allowing away fixture spectators. No match teas. Numbers on site with spectators and more cars is a concern. Working through these logistical issues.
- **District 3** Pretty much all schools are back playing fixtures again. Most schools are playing in year group bubbles and not mixing year groups though some smaller schools are having to. The traditional summer sports are being played as normal. That said, athletics does not seem to be taking place as pupils have not had much time to practise. Most schools are accepting spectators but there are varying degrees as to what level. Most schools are allowing their own parents, some are allowing home and away, and a minority are not allowing any. There are no match teas for spectators generally and schools are supplying their own teas. Schools are gearing up for a normal autumn term.
- **District 4** Talk around travel, fixtures, grass root sport. The NGB road maps reached everyone quickly which was good. Their communication process was good.
- **District 5** Most schools have started fixtures but limiting the number of schools they are playing in the area. Schools moving towards spectators but only at home fixtures. Many schools have moved to girls' cricket and dropped rounders, meaning rounders fixtures are extremely hard to find. Some schools still like rounders and the skills that it brings.
- **District 6** Schools excited about getting back into fixtures in September. Discussion around spectators and managing parking and track and trace when they attend. Some schools are only allowing parents to attend outdoor events and in year group bubbles.
- **District 8** Frustration that senior school sport has been taking place for some weeks, but the junior heads have been told not to start fixtures. But now some schools have started. No spectators yet. Schools started out playing clubs, then moved to fixtures against other schools. Girls' cricket has taken over rounders. More girls joining clubs outside of school.
- **District 9** Fixtures have started. Cambridge schools are only playing each other to avoid travelling by bus. Some schools operating fixture bubbles. Spectators returning gradually.
- **District 10** Fixtures have started, minimal travel, no match teas. Talk around spectators, test and trace and 30 spectators by the pitch.
- **District 11** Prep schools have only just returned to matches. No block fixtures. Year groups travelling on separate buses. Unanimously decided no spectators at the moment across the district but may try home spectators in due course. Girls' cricket is taking off. Mixed sport is happening more. Speaking to the Scottish RFU to see whether there will still be restrictions in the autumn term in Rugby. Moving to more festivals for U9 rather than tournaments, so turn up and play a range of sports for an afternoon at a school for a more rounded sports afternoon, rather than turn up for one match and leave. But they would not want to lose the nice match tea feel afterwards.
- **District 12** Lots of discussion around spectators, do they let parents watch or not? Schools are just finding their feet and testing the water gradually.
- Girls' cricket is growing substantially across the country and there are lots more opportunities for them in the game. FH announced she has been asked to join the Girls' Cricket Club advisory board, which has been set up by Lydia Greenway from Cricket for Girls. FH will attend termly meetings and open the communication channels between IAPS and Girls Cricket. SC asked whether clarity could be sought on when to introduce hardball cricket into schools. MM suggested it is up to each school to assess when the children are ready.

## Sports App

The sports app is being worked on with all the information for our autumn events and will be launched in September. It will be an app for parents and schools to use at events, rather than being a tool to book events through. Bookings will still need to go through our website.

### **Sports Conference & online CPD**

The inaugural Director of Sport Conference has been moved to November 2022. There was concern around opening the bookings this year when schools are not fully back. We are looking at delivering a range of one day or ½ day CPD courses next academic year, building up to the conference in November 22. We will look at hot topics such as girls' cricket and deliver online courses next academic year.

### **Sponsorship**

There has been a restructure of the IAPS East team and there is now a dedicated Sponsorship & Exhibition Coordinator - Helen Wycherley. We are working with Helen to source a sponsor for the App and the annual medals. There will also be opportunities for smaller adverts on individual qualifiers e.g. a local medal shop sponsoring the Haileybury qualifier.

### **England Netball**

England Netball launched Bee Netball in 2019 and gave IAPS a two-year grace period to change their U11 competition to Bee Netball. The pandemic has happened in the middle of this but IAPS is still on course to change its competition in 2022.

Bee Netball courses had been planned before the pandemic which would have been delivered by England netball. The courses would have been half theory to explain how and why they have developed this new format and then half practical to show the new format in practice.

An extensive email was sent out on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May about Bee Netball and the changes that affect the U11 age group, giving schools plenty of notice to start delivering Bee Netball at school.

FH met with England Netball and has organised a webinar on Thursday 10 June 4-5pm. On the webinar, England Netball will explain their journey on developing the new framework; the research that was undertaken, their findings and how this transpired into Bee Netball. Schools can submit questions beforehand for England Netball to answer.

It is hoped that the webinar will answer a lot of questions or at least provide schools with the understanding of how England Netball came to develop this framework.

The webinar will be free and also recorded so it will be available online afterwards for anyone that misses it.

IAPS will deliver practical workshops in the autumn term if possible. Ultimately independent schools have a choice with what they deliver but England Netball will not support other formats of the game.

### **Futsal**

FH has been contacted by PlayFutsal and asked whether IAPS schools would be interested in a Futsal championship. FH asked the committee if their schools play Futsal and whether this would be of interest. No schools on the committee play futsal in school. JH said some of their pupils play at football academies outside of school in the winter.

### **England Hockey**

CS reported that local competitions started in April and the older leagues have started recently. The biggest issue was car sharing to and from matches. Parents were being invited but no hospitality. EH Championships will re-start in September.

### **Important information for Districts**

- a. England netball Webinar, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 4-5pm. Sign up [online](#). It will be recorded and put online afterwards if schools miss it.
- b. Dates go live for the Spring term events on Monday 7 June. Bookings will open in September.

### **Chairman's business**

- a. New chair – Congratulations to Sean Price, Westonbirt Prep School, who has been voted as the new Chair to take over in September for 3 years. Good Luck, I have thoroughly enjoyed it for the last 3 years.
- b. New committee representatives – there are lots of committee representatives leaving and new ones starting. A huge thank you to the representatives leaving, GE, GJ, JW, JH, DH, RT & SC.
- c. CS gave a summary of what has been achieved by the committee over the last 4 years. 4 years ago we changed the structure of the committee to have a representative from each district. A lot has happened in this time:
  - The Introduction of SOCS (results) for events.
  - A clearer distinction of age groups and definition of small schools.
  - Sports calendar moved to online and a more streamlined booking system through the new website.
  - Safeguarding and anti-bullying policies introduced at all events.
  - A code of conduct for parents.
  - Greater links and feedback through our Districts.
  - Working closer with ICE for IAPS training courses.
  - New venues – including the National Aquatics centre in 2018. Nottingham University, many more senior schools.
  - Restructuring of tennis - one of the longest running IAPS tournament to be brought in line with the IAPS quality control.
  - Growth of the flagship tournaments such as swimming, fencing, hockey, netball.
  - Introduction of U11 rugby & cricket festivals, girls' cricket festivals, girls' football tournaments.
  - Greater voice with RFU, England Hockey and England Netball – important communication channels developed.
  - Introduction of a Vice Chairman
  - A position where income raised from the sports programme covers the costs of those working within the sports department at HQ.
  - Committee meeting minutes published on the IAPS website for greater transparency.
  - TED, the new IAPS Mascot
  - Introduction of a Director of Sports Conference for 2022

CS said: "I speak for everyone that is leaving in saying thank you to MSB for his wise words and wise council and special thanks to FH & EC for their hard work. I know personally that it has always been most enjoyable talking through sporting issues with them at HQ. And well done to FH & EC on their creativity throughout lockdown, it wasn't easy and all of the extra activities that were brought in have been great for schools to take part in. Thanks to the committee for all your support and hard work and good luck in the years ahead.

Dates of future meetings: **Thursday 14 October 2021**