

SPORT COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee met on Thursday, 10 October 2019, 10.30am at IAPS HQ.

Present: Chris Schanschieff (Sports Committee Chairman - CS), Deborah Henderson (DH), Greg Evans (GE), John Thorpe (JT), Sean Price (SP), Susan Clarke (SC), Gareth Jones (GJ), Mike McKaughan (MM), Jonathan Hall (JH), Ian Silk (IS), Sally Garland-Jones (SGJ), Marcus Cook (MC) and Nick Pears (NP).

In attendance: Fran Hide (Sport Events Manager - FH) and Emily Connell (Sport Events Coordinator – EC).

1062. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Rob Taylor (RT), Mark Brotherton (MSB) and Christopher King (CK). The Chairman of the Sport Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new members, Marcus Cook and Ian Silk.

1063. Declaration of conflict of interest

There were no declarations of a conflict of interest.

1064. Minutes of the meeting on 31 January 2019.

CS summarised the minutes from the last meeting.

The minutes from the meeting held on the 14 May 2019 were approved and signed.

1065. Matters arising from the minutes not reported elsewhere in the meeting papers

a. Code of Conduct for parents

CS explained that a new code of conduct for parents is now included in all sport event programmes and available on the website. Two schools were directly approached last year regarding poor parental behaviour at events.

1066. Feedback from events

b. Swimming finals

CS thanked everyone who attended and supported the running of the event in June, it was a great success. He requested more help from the Committee next year. The girls' and boys' sessions will rotate each year. Competitors from Kenyan schools travelled over to take part. An electronic ticketing system was introduced and was a success. Some minor improvements were noted for next year.

c. Triathlon

CS explained the event was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. Plenty of notice was given to schools and full refunds were issued.

d. Tennis

CS explained that the new venue at Rugby school was very good with all the courts on the one site and a balcony for viewing. The revised structure was well received. Next year's event has moved away from ½ term and will be held in June. A few improvements have been noted for next year's event.

SGJ said overall the event went well and was a success. The venue was underprepared for the number of spectators, the venue made it clear they would be better prepared for next year.

e. Cricket

MM explained how two local schools in the south hosted a girls' U11 and U13 cricket festival. This caused an issue with low entries at each event.

FH said that in 2020, both schools will just host the one age group.

CS explained that Matt Bell is stepping down from organising the U13 boys cricket tournament after many years.

Action – CS to write to Matt Bell to thank him for all his work organising the U13 boys' cricket tournaments.

1067. Feedback from districts/NGB meetings

a. RFU feedback

SP explained how the RFU are still trialling the new playing calendar. It has been circulated in the IAPS Sport newsletter. It remains one of the biggest issues within the sport, knowing when competitors can play. A lot of work still has to be done to make it clearer. Children can “opt out” of playing rugby if they wish. There has been a lot of research carried out into head injuries and the general safety of the game. There are resources online for schools and parents to access but analytics shows it is not being accessed by many people.

FH asked for clarification on whether the RFU has a back log on age group playing requests.

SP clarified that the RFU are looking into this process and how it's managed. Information will be circulated to schools in the sports newsletter about the resources available online including age groups, supplements and nutrition.

Action – SP to review the process of approving age grade requests with the RFU and clarify who must sign each request off (counties or national).

b. England Netball

FH said that IAPS Sport will launch the new Bee Netball initiative which will affect the U11 tournament, following new changes by England Netball after half term. Workshops will be hosted across the country to help upskill staff on the new format.

SC gave a summary of the feedback received from district 12 on the changes to the U11 netball format.

The main concerns were discussed by the Committee which included;

- Number of players on court reducing from 7 players to 5
- Not enough courts to handle 5-a-side teams
- Fears that this would dumb down of the game.

These concerns will be addressed in communication sent out to schools after half term.

SC said one suggestion from schools was whether the new format could be introduced from 2022. This would allow a longer transition and would be well received by schools.

FH said this suggestion will be put forward to England Netball.

MM explained how this happened with rugby when the RFU introduced changes and how largely it has settled down.

DH said that if clubs buy in to the new format, it will encourage more schools to do the same.

Action – IAPS Sport to discuss with England Netball how best to introduce the new format at U11 and devise communications to go out to schools after October half term.

c. England Golf

FH met with England Golf and they would like to promote their new initiatives to schools. Their main focus is around making golf more accessible to all. England Golf would like to go into schools and talk about their new initiatives, they also have a lot of new equipment to give out.

Action – Committee to feed back to districts and inform them of the opportunity for England Golf to go into schools.

d. England Hockey

CS attended an England Hockey meeting where there were discussions on changes to the structure. England Hockey are going to re-structure at club level first, to remove some anomalies. It doesn't currently affect IAPS hockey events, but it will affect schools. Information will be issued in the IAPS Sport newsletter in due course.

e. District 4 feedback

SP received a letter from district 4. The letter asked for discussion and feedback on a variety of topics regarding IAPS events.

SP explained that the opinions raised appear to be from a small minority of schools and it is not the feeling of everyone across the district. Topics raised for discussion included;

- national tournaments moving to festival formats
- hosting B, C, D tournaments
- the cost of entering events
- NGB regulations

SP is going to gather feedback from the rest of the district on the points raised in order to gather wider evidence.

FH said that IAPS Sport is working with national governing bodies to make sure all sport events are run in-line with their rules and regulations. All of the points raised in the letter have previously been discussed at Committee meetings. A formal reply to the letter will be sent to District 4 by IAPS.

Action - IAPS Sport will reply to district 4. FH will attend the next district meeting later in the year.

f. District 12 feedback

SC received a letter from a school in district 12 addressing an issue with setting up fixtures with other schools within the district. Schools play sport across different terms which causes problems when trying to organise fixtures. Boys' have more fixture time on Saturday's than girls.

CS explained that these issues can only be managed at a district level and it is not for IAPS Sport to get involved in.

Action – IAPS Sport will write a reply to district 12.

g. District 5 feedback

JH thanked Huw Thomas (Sherborne School) who organised this district meeting. District 5 is a very proactive area, they are keen for a Director of Sport Conference. They would like more support on transgender guidance and clarity on the change to the U11 netball format. They would like the cost of entering the swimming gala to be reviewed to offer a price per pupil for the competition and not just a team price.

FH confirmed IAPS Sport would review the swimming entry format and how it could be improved for next year.

JT questioned whether a perfect system exists and whether it is worth spending time and resources amending the entry format when it currently works for most schools.

Action – IAPS Sport to review the swimming costs for 2020 entries.

h. Marketing at IAPS Sport events

JH explained that the head of his senior school has raised concerns over excessive marketing at IAPS Sport events. The concern is around advertising scholarships in event programmes and on the day which could be seen as aggressive marketing.

CS explained that IAPS Sport must cover all event costs, as well as additional costs added on by the association. The programme relies on senior schools offering their facilities for free or at minimal cost, in return for marketing to schools.

GJ suggested whether IAPS Sport should provide strict guidelines to hosting schools on what can be included in the programme.

FH said that the programme would half in size but double in cost if IAPS Sport tried to restrict the marketing by host schools. If senior schools charged IAPS Sport for the full cost of hosting, the programme would be unfinanceable.

Action – IAPS Sport will reply to the letter received.

1068. IAPS Sport team update

- a. 2019-2020 calendar
Dates for events this academic year are now online only. A printed calendar will no longer be produced. The basketball competition is still to be confirmed. SOCS is being used at all team events; the software has professionalised the programme. In 2020, an U12 boys' hockey final is being introduced.
- b. Transgender statement
FH has research each NGB's transgender guidance. IAPS Sport have produced and published a transgender statement on the website. A summary of each sports guidance (sports IAPS host events in) has been produced by FH to support the IAPS Sport team when dealing with enquires.
- c. International events
FH said a Kenyan school is hosting a netball qualifier and swimming gala in 2020. A team will be invited to both finals in the UK. IAPS Sport are looking to stage a multi-sport event in Europe and UEA. This was well received by member Heads, after FH presented to them at the overseas conference.
- d. Swimming
FH clarified that for 2020 there has been a change to the butterfly distance for U11, U12 and U13, increasing from 25m to 50m. The U10 age group will remain 25m.

1069. Important information for Districts

- e. New website launching in Jan 2020
FH said in January 2020 the association is launching a new website. IAPS Sport will let districts know what is involved as soon as a launch date is confirmed. Due to this, summer sport events will not open until January 2020.
- f. Prep School Director of Sport Conference
FH asked the Committee to gather feedback on delivering a Prep School Director of Sport Conference. The conference would be held in spring 2021. The conference would be theoretical and not practical. Any feedback on topics and speakers is welcomed.
- g. Summary of minutes
FH explained that a summary of the Committee meeting minutes will now be created and published on the IAPS Sport website and in the newsletter to allow districts to see what is discussed at HQ.
- h. Disability Sport
EC is researching into whether there is a demand for IAPS Sport to host disability sporting events. Feedback is welcomed on whether there is a demand for IAPS Sport to host events, promote existing events or whether to better raise awareness of opportunities available.
Action: FH asked the Committee to feedback asap on both disability events and a Prep Schools Conference, rather than waiting until the next meeting.

1070. Chairman's business

CS reminded the Committee of the pressure that IAPS Sport is under to cover all costs of hosting events. The programme itself makes a profit but once additional costs are applied to the programme, it makes a loss. IAPS Sport are working hard to close the gap each year.

The age cut-off date for children entering sports events is the 1 September.

1071. Any other business

MM explained that there is a cricket conference being held, which will discuss the junior cricket format. District representatives are invited to attend. The meeting will be held at King's College Junior School, Wimbledon on 7 November 2019.

Dates of future meetings (unless otherwise stated meetings will be held at IAPS HQ in Leamington Spa):

Tuesday 4 February

Tuesday 12 May