



**USFHA Board of Directors' Meeting
CHAIR'S REPORT
Sunday, May 6, 2012**

INTRODUCTION

Steve and I maintain our scheduled weekly calls and daily email correspondence, which allows me to stay well informed. Since our previous board meeting in February, it continues to be an incredibly busy time for the board and staff. There will be an extremely demanding workload for Steve and his staff the next six months. I charge the board with making sound decisions and providing the necessary guidance for our continued success in the various areas of our organization, but in particular high performance and Olympic planning and preparation. This is an extremely important area that needs our immediate attention. We have less than 85 days to London and are only 6 months out from the inaugural World League.

COMMITTEES

Executive Director Evaluation Committee – Chaired by Rene Zelkin, the committee has created a 2012 Annual Performance Review for Steve Locke. This evaluation includes specific metrics and a bonus structure.

Bylaw Committee – The bylaw revisions have been quite a laborious task. We are still in the midst of making those changes. Once complete, the bylaws will be posted on our website for another review by those interested members. After feedback is solicited, the committee, chaired by Randy Sundeen, will make final recommendations to the board for approval by summer's end.

NIT and TOWN HALL MEETING

March 10-11, I had the opportunity to attend the U14 & U16 National Indoor Tournament (NIT) in Richmond, VA, and more specifically the Town Hall Meeting. It is the first one I have ever attended and I enjoyed the conversation amongst those attending. An incredible amount of feedback was gathered from FUNDamental Field Hockey to club rankings to the best location and timing of NIT. It was nice hearing first hand from our members and I appreciate the time to provide insight to help make our sport and organization even better.

AROUND THE WORLD

FIH Board Meetings were held on March 30-31, 2012 in Barcelona, Spain. It was business as usual, with some notes of importance. Obviously much excitement surrounds the Olympic Games in London. Field hockey will no doubt take center stage! An astounding 65,000 tickets were sold in 14 minutes for the Test Series in London. The 2012 Congress will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November. There are plans for an exhibition of the complimentary game. The 'Own Goal' rule is a mandatory experimental rule for both indoor and outdoor as of January 13. It will come into effect immediately following the Olympic Games and will be found in major Tournament Briefings.

USA –CANADA CHALLENGE

April 1-8, Carla Tagliente and I had the opportunity to serve as managers/assistant coaches for the U19 and U17 Teams respectively. It was good to be in the trenches, to virtually live and breath the lives led by Kate Reisinger and Katelyn Nerbonne. Managing a team is no easy task and living a week in their shoes allowed us to see what daily demands are placed on these incredibly hard working women who manage the lives of our national teams, both players and staff. This experience and some of the pitfalls surrounding the organization and planning of the event, as well as the daily grind of managing a team, opened our eyes to the reality that exists in our high performance staff. We are severely understaffed in high performance and need to address this issue immediately.

Otherwise our northern friends hosted an incredible tournament for our junior players. Honestly, the Canadians ran the event as if it was a World Cup. The 8 staff members (7 college coaches in various roles, and 1 athletic trainer) assigned to this tour were utterly impressed by the teamwork and organization of the local organizers. No doubt, It was a first class event!

FIH WORLD LEAGUE ROUND 1

Handling our withdrawal with the utmost respect for the FIH, the game, and our men's team, we made the difficult decision to withdraw the men's team from the Olympic Qualification Tournament in New Delhi, India. It was agreed that this course of action was in the best interest of the long-term progress of our national program. At the time of our withdrawal, our participation in the impending World League was an important part of that decision. Terry Walsh furnished the FIH with further background regarding our decision to withdraw from the Olympic Qualification Tournament in India in a formal response sent to Ken Read, Chair of the FIH Competitions Committee. The FIH, taking into account the contrition expressed by USA Field Hockey, decided that the penalty would be a fine of CHF13,000 and a deduction of 70 FIH World Ranking Points.

In full support of our men's program and the hope of giving our team home field advantage, we placed a bid to host the Men's World League Round 1. April 17 we received a letter from the FIH that the tournament would be held in Chula Vista, CA November 13-18 and include the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and USA. This league is extremely important to our men's team as it aspires to climb the world rankings and earn a spot at the 2014 World Cup in The Netherlands. We have placed our men in the best possible position we could by competing in California.

USA FIELD HOCKEY ALLIANCE

The Alliance was officially formed on Wednesday, March 28. As a first order of business, Terry Horner, representing the Horner Foundation, and Pam Stuper, chair of the Board of Directors of USA Field Hockey, signed a legal contract to establish a new legal entity. The structure will be a 501C entitled USA Field Hockey Alliance. Mr. Horner reaffirmed the selection of Terry Horner as chair of the new USA Field Hockey Alliance corporation, Pam Stuper as vice chair, Ann-Marie Horner as treasurer, and Steve Locke as secretary. Nominations for the Facilities, Site Selection, and Fundraising Committee were discussed. Carla Tagliente will chair the Facilities Committee,

Terry Horner will chair the Site Selection Committee, and Laura Darling will chair the Fundraising Committee. Several other topics were discussed including website development, mainstream media exposure, and tentative plans to organize a reception in the Philadelphia/Camden area.

OTHER MATTERS

Spooky Nook Sports Complex

- Laura Darling and I are slated for a site visit and presentation on Friday, May 4 (following submission of my Chair Report). Steve Locke, Laura and I will provide a review of our discussions with this entity.

Upcoming BOD Meetings:

- Given the incredible number of things happening in our organization, I recommend we have short conference calls (2-3 hours) early July and mid-September.
- I propose our next face-to-face meeting, in conjunction with our AGM, is held in November as usual.

Thank you for your contributions to USA Field Hockey during the last three months. In particular I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the staff members. Tremendous job!! Keep up the good work!

GO USA!!

Pam Stuper
Chair, USA Field Hockey Board of Directors