



ENGLISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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Recreational Section Report for the AGM September 2018

British Ice Hockey is certainly in a state of flux at the moment as it tries to combat the trials and tribulations of planning out a unified future. Recreational Ice Hockey could have a major say in how the sport develops or possibly find itself cast to the outback. The Rec section could be a vital pivot point for the new structure both in income and membership, and help to build a successful pyramid for the future.

The Rec Executive believe they have tirelessly worked for the good of the sport, taking decisions that they thought helped the sport move forward whilst at the same time protecting its members within the sport, the Recreational players.

As the sport moves forward the evaluations taken by our members could have a major impact and now is the time to sit back and think what would be the best direction to take.

Are we to look to being an equal partner in moving the sport forward. Supporting the policy of one unified body and in return getting a seat at the top table allowing the section a fair say in those crucial decisions that could impact on our members. Such a choice will mean accepting some results that may be unpalatable but would allow the section to be truly involved.

Alternatively, do we revert to where the section originally started and become a self supporting body that looks to stand up and support Recreational players only, with its own funding.

Both options have their merits and also their pitfalls and such a conclusion is one in which the Rec Executive need the teams input. For over 25 years plus, the present Executive have worked hard to produce a section which is well run and constantly expanding, to continue that success the club's need to understand what is at stake.

Whilst being well aware that the majority just want to play with as little hassle or cost possible, you have to be aware that unless we speak with a unified voice knowing that all clubs are on the same page, then we risk being taken down a route that could destroy the years of excellent work and result in the section becoming a cash cow for those higher up the pyramid.

Resolutions that this sections Executive have voted on were legally challenged after a team that had not attended a meeting spoke out of turn stating they did not agree with the Executive, albeit they had signed a form allowing the Executive to speak on their behalf. This is why we seem to be constantly asking for verification of your views on topics, to ensure we carry out your wishes.

I believe that the present Rec Executive has the successful future of the sport at their core ideal. If anyone thinks differently today is the time to speak out.

Chairman of the Recreational Section

Mr T Boynton