

# HOCKEY IRELAND

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*Affiliated to the International Hockey Federation and to the European Hockey Federation*

5 November 2020

To: The members of Hockey Ireland

## **Hockey Ireland 2019 accounts**

In preparation of the Annual General Meeting of Irish Hockey Ltd, attached are the 2019 accounts. 2019 was a 'big year' for the organisation and this is reflected in these accounts. Income was significantly up from €2.6 million in 2018 to €3.6 million but expenses were also up to approximately €3.9 million, resulting in a deficit for the year of €280,730.

There are a number of reasons for the loss. Firstly, the FIH World Series Finals event, hosted by Hockey Ireland in Banbridge as part of the Olympic Qualification for the Senior Women, was a financial challenge. Hockey Ireland had to secure a new venue because the National Stadium was under renovation and the pitch at the Sport Ireland Campus was not in place yet. FIH requirements, erection of temporary stands and the commercial challenge of the venue being outside Dublin resulted in a significant loss. Despite the financial implications, the event was a great success and secured home qualification for the Senior Women's Team on the road to Tokyo.

Secondly, hosting the Senior Women's Olympic Qualifier in a rugby stadium and installing a temporary hockey surface in Energia Park (Donnybrook Stadium) was a massive undertaking. However, this venue produced significant benefits from a promotion point of view as it enabled the tournament to be broadcast on live TV at prime time, as well as providing the opportunity for thousands of fans to be part of this unique moment of Irish hockey history.

Thirdly, the Men's Olympic Qualifier in Vancouver, Canada incurred higher costs than anticipated as the location was announced with limited notice, and the team was assigned a fixture much further afield than planned for.

As a result of the aforementioned costs, Hockey Ireland carried accumulated losses at the 2019 year end of €157,390. Plans are in place to improve the financial position going forward, but with the addition of the challenges presented by COVID-19, Hockey Ireland has to carefully manage its finances and work with its members and financial partners to address its financial situation.

Hockey Ireland very much appreciates all the financial support that Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland and our commercial partners have provided.

Hockey Ireland was informed earlier this week that we will benefit from the Sport Ireland Covid-19 additional grants, which will help us in these exceptional times. In High Performance, we are punching above our weight and at the grassroots level of the sport, we see healthy growth. Our latest membership count is 33,521 and clubs are reporting strong interest from potential new members. Our sponsors have confirmed continuing support, and hopefully we will benefit from the interest that the Olympic Games in 2021 will bring to hockey.

To enable us to better facilitate questions and provide a comprehensive response during the virtual AGM, please send any specific questions regarding the accounts in advance to [info@hockey.ie](mailto:info@hockey.ie).

On behalf of the Board,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JPels', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerome Pels  
CEO Hockey Ireland