



2017 Report of the Chair

Field Hockey Canada Board of Directors

The Board held 4 meetings in July, November, January and April. Other than routine corporation matters, future trust investment, direction of U Sports, World League venue review, National programs as well as future domestic development discussions were the main areas of focus.

Regarding the investment of trust funds, our sincere thanks to Mike Gunning for his considerable time in researching alternative investment opportunities for our Men's and Women's Trust Funds, in order to enhance investment returns. We were able to establish a deeper partnership with the Canadian Olympic Foundation, the agency to which we now receive donations. While speaking of donations, I would like to sincerely thank the field hockey community for their support of our Women's National program recently, both through donations and attending the recent fundraising event. Combined with the strong support from our Men's alumni for men leading to Rio, it is clear that alumni engagement and fundraising must be an important strategy for the future.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all of the volunteers across Canada who enable the game to happen on the pitch. The power of volunteerism was in full force as the FIH World League II hosted in West Vancouver last April. Thank you again to all volunteers involved across Canada.

The FIH World League presented a difficult scenario for our Men's National program. Team safety was paramount in making the Board decision to not travel to Dacca, Bangladesh. However, the FIH were able to find a solution sending our Canadian men to compete in Trinidad & Tobago, where we were successful in qualifying for FIH World League III and ultimately the World Cup in 2018.

Within the Men's program, we bid farewell to Coach Anthony Farry in May who accepted a role as head coach of Japan. Retiring from the Men's program in the last year were several key contributors on and off the pitch. We thank Philip Wright, Dave Jameson, Ben Martin, Jagdish Gill, Paul Wharton and Stephen Bissett and wish them all success in the future. After a tremendous career, Thea Culley retired from the Women's National program but remained active in her role as Athlete Representative on the Board.

Going forward, the Board and CEO will continue to discuss and examine a more robust structure for National Teams with an enhanced focus on domestic development. Given today's international competition reality, it becomes imperative that future, "Next Gen" athletes and coaches receive earlier and better opportunities. We must ensure the best environmental opportunities in order to encourage longevity and support for field hockey.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Baggott
Chair of the Board