



## **Alton Hockey Club Annual General Meeting Thursday 23th May 2019, Alton House Hotel**

**Attendees:** Dave Harvey (Chairman), Matt Steven, Robin Kemp, Pete Tynan, Ian Southgate, Kieran Southgate, Adrian Trim, Colin Gamble, Sophie Wallace, Gary Ward, Simon Cooney, Nathaniel Cooney, Vicky Small, Gayle Moir, Kevin Scowcroft, Lawrence Jones, Tom Pate, Martin Kercher, Forbes Hamilton, Nikki Bird, Brad Bothwell, Richard Moffat

**Apologies:** Andrew Stratford, Donald Hinstead, Neil Davidson, Josh Davidson, Tara/Amber Robinson, Ben/Isobel/Charlotte Horton, John Wallace, Joe Yeadon, Caroline/Gemma/Sam/Thomas Orange

**In attendance via proxy (represented by attendees physically present):** see Appendix I

### **MINUTES**

#### **Previous Minutes: 2018 AGM**

There were no matters warranting further discussion from the 2018 AGM.

#### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Dave Harvey welcomed everyone to the 2019 AHC AGM. The full text of his report is set out below:

"I am pleased to tell you that the season has been incredibly successful both on and off the pitch and that this report will be a brief summary of the salient achievements.

The club has continued to develop, grow and be successful. Alton Hockey Club is a family orientated, community-based club wanting to provide opportunities for players of all ages to play hockey. That might sound blindingly obvious but that is our role. To provide maximum opportunities to play hockey does however require commitment. The success of the club is due to a combination of factors, but I want to pay tribute to the officers of the club who behind the scenes make things happen so that playing on a Saturday or a Sunday, or training and numerous social events seem seamless. One of the most pleasing aspects of the club is the growth and exceptional development of the Junior section that is supported by senior players which in turn is reflected in the selection of the senior teams.

The junior section of the club has been superbly led by Pete Tynan, congratulations on his HHA appointment, and with the support of parents and team managers has been pivotal in establishing the firm foundations we need to build future success upon. It is particularly heartening to see our juniors coming through and representing the ladies and men's senior teams. The Junior committee, that was only created last year, has continued to have a major impact on the club so thank you to all involved, this is the lifeblood and future of the club. It is no coincidence that the U12 girls, U14 and U16 girls have been highly successful winning leagues, cups and regional tournaments. The U16 and U12 boys winning their leagues, wonderful mini tournaments, foreign tours, and terrific holiday hockey camps. More than a dozen players have represented Hampshire, two players have made the Performance Centre and Ben Morgan has made his international debut for Wales U16. For a small club we are punching well above our weight and the future is both bright and exciting.

My job as Chair is made easy by the Committee who behind the scenes put in a huge amount of effort and time mixed with imagination, humour and creativity. I would like to thank Richard, Matt, Gayle, Trimmer/John, Vicky, Gary, Paul/Bex and Pete. Sub groups such as the social team, club mark and development committees have all quietly made a huge contribution to the club. A massive thanks to Ian and his team for guiding the club through 'ClubMark', a fantastic achievement. The development committee saw through the negotiations for the new pitch at Eggars and it was great to see teams playing on the new surface in October after a long 4 years of will it/won't it happen. We look forward to developing our partnership with Eggars, it is appropriate at this point to also recognise the quality of relationship with Amery Hill who we will continue to use and, as the club grows, need to use. Midweek training at Eggars is a real bonus saving travel time but more importantly keeping hockey in the town of Alton. Thank you to all the coaches. It is not just the committee but the coaches and members who all add to the successful mix, the development plan with a real

emphasis on developing all aspects of the club from juniors to seniors to umpiring and facilities. Setting out club aspirations was pulled together by Colin Gamble - so a big thanks to Colin who also represents the club at the Alton Sports Council. Thanks to Lawrence Jones for picking up umpiring and Matt fixtures mid -season at short notice.

There is never a shortage of people who we can ask for support – whether it be the Alton beer festival, awards evenings, town events or county AGMs - the people, officials, players and parents, who make this club tick are the underlying strength of the club and why being Chair is a privilege and not a chore.

This year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the club and a splendid evening was had in addition to hockey on grass. It was great to welcome back founding members and past players; I think it is fair to say the club has never been in such a strong position, which we intend to build on together with excellent support of both Hampshire Hockey Association and England Hockey.

Senior teams had a solid season with the men's 3<sup>rd</sup> X1 worthy of mention as remaining unbeaten now in two seasons. We now need to push on so the second team are closer to the first team in terms of league structure. The creation of a third Ladies X1 this season and more teams in the junior age groups demonstrates the continued growth of the club and we can look forward with great optimism for next season.

Of course, the league season may have ended but throughout the summer hockey is alive and well with back to hockey programmes, junior hockey camps and summer leagues all in place. So, to conclude I repeat, I consider it a privilege to be chair of such a dynamic, friendly and successful club and we can all look forward to a bright future."

Colin Gamble (CG) asked how the Exec Committee structure was evolving, as discussed at the 2017 AGM. DH replied that the Exec Committee was ever evolving and meetings had become slicker and more focused. The constitution imposed certain limits on that evolution. The recent sub-committees for ClubMark, Development and of course the Junior Committee were proof of success in this area.

## **Junior Chairman**

The Junior Development Chairman, Pete Tynan, ran through the many highlights of a stellar season for the Junior section:

"The juniors have had another incredible season - particularly the girls' section. The U16 Girls won the Hampshire Cup, the U14 girls came runners up in the Hampshire Cup - just losing the final on penalty flicks before bouncing back to win the Southern Counties Cup. The U12 girls won the Hampshire in2hockey championship and then went onto represent the county at the South in2hockey championship where they only lost one game - that to the all-conquering Surbiton. But the girls bounced back to win the Plate competition.

Our U16 boys and U12 boys both won the Div 2 North Leagues. While the U14s have rotated their squad around to make sure every player has had experience of league competition.

Our Minis have had a very successful festival season and Forbes in particular has looked for every opportunity to arrange friendlies and additional in2hockey fixtures. I think it is worth a mention that a year ago we spent time planning our season strategy through the 2 key work streams (Players strategy / Coaches Strategy). We have monitored these throughout the season, using the golden thread and planned sessions with Baggy's support which (hopefully) has supported the teams in their successes.

We have outsourced our holiday camps to 121 Coaching and this has been incredibly successful with some capacity camps with over 60 players on some days. This has also given our players the chance to experience some world class coaching with a host of former and current internationals and national league coaches appearing at Alton. In the last 12 months we have had 3 current GB players in the FIH league pro-league squads coaching at Alton.

Our U16 girls had a very successful tour of Barcelona in October.

The move to Eggars has allowed us to increase the number of training sessions we run - leading to increased engagement (and increased coaching workload).

The Junior Committee and all the coaches, managers and umpires have done an amazing job over the last season, working strenuously behind the scenes to deliver great hockey sessions and slickly organised fixtures.

The efforts are shown in the great results on the pitch but also the feedback from parents and the buzz and excitement of our training sessions. And I think the most telling indicator of our success is that children have tried to join throughout the season - even on the last weekend, we were still getting parents asking about joining because of the word of mouth and recommendations from other parents.

We have also had success for individual players this season, with one player Ben Morgan making his international debut for Wales U16 boys. We have had two players make it to Performance Centre this year and more success with the dozen players who have represented Hampshire this year.

As I am standing down as Junior Chair to focus on coaching, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers that help out the junior section and to all the parents and junior players for making the job so enjoyable ... mostly."

Forbes Hamilton (FH): five coaches had represented AHC at Hants development centres

CG: girls' teams run B teams – often done well against A teams. PT also U12 B team and 2 U14 boys next year and U18 girls...

The Meeting thanked Pete for all his hard work and wished him well in his new HHA role.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Matt Steven (MS), presented the draft unaudited accounts for the 2018/19 season. Overall AHC had made a small surplus. There were no outstanding subscriptions from 2018/19. The move to Eggars had been an unknown quantity, but additional pitch costs had been offset by income from new members. The Junior section would be granted its own budget to manage from 2019/20 onwards given its increasing importance.

The Meeting was invited to review the draft unaudited accounts and raise questions.

Gayle Moir (GM) asked what the difference was between youth and junior. MS explained it was pre-defined by the website, but junior seemed to be under 16s and youth over 16s not in full time employment.

**Action: MS to confirm and share with Executive Committee.**

FH noted that the recent Hampshire Junior Forum had announced that Clubs would be able to recoup pitch fees from visiting teams who cancelled matches. MS had already been sending bills to opposition teams who cancelled in 2018/19, especially as Eggars required two weeks' notice of pitch cancellations for refunds, and welcomed this feedback of an official HHA policy.

Vicky Small (VS) asked about the impact on match teas from using the White Hart. MS explained that the Rugby Club charged £60 for 25 teas, whereas the White Hart charged £4/head. The additional cost impact had been minimised by obtaining opposition numbers in advance. As a fall-back for those weekends where the Rugby Club was full the White Hart had worked well.

Colin Gamble wondered if there were any plans for an AHC clubhouse. MS responded that there were no long-term plans and a better idea might be some form of partnership with other Alton sports clubs (e.g. Rugby and Cricket) for a joint clubhouse, but this was some way off.

GM questioned the reduction in coaching/training spend. MS explained it was largely due to sharing the coaching between Soma and Baggy, whereas before it was all Soma.

Match fees collection was working well. It was the responsibility of junior managers to collect, but MS had performed his own reasonableness checks and was satisfied match fees were fairly stated.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Gayle Moir, seconded by Simon Cooney and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

*Copies of the draft accounts may be obtained directly from the Treasurer.*

### **Subscriptions**

MS's initial proposal was for no increase in subscriptions. AHC's objective was not to make money. IS raised the question of if the Adult Section broke even or was funded by the Juniors. MS responded that additional analysis would be required, a piece of work that would not be straightforward.

CG commented that in future AHC could look for sponsors, especially given all the junior members.

Lawrence Jones (LJ) highlighted how AHC subs were one of the attractions given rises at other local clubs - 20% over three years at Basingstoke. VS was of the opinion subs should not increase unless there was a valid reason.

DH summarised that a review of how fees were structured was required, including segmental analysis and this would be examined further by the Executive Committee. FH asked if the family member structure could be reviewed at the same time.

**Action: MS to prepare segmental analysis to see if adults break even? The mandate from the Meeting was that if the Adult Section proved to be self-funding then no increase, but if loss making an increase would be justified.**

### **Change to the Club's constitution (see below)**

The proposed amendment was discussed and there was some concern that this would stop the under 13s having a say (despite there being a Junior Committee) and with the Junior Section increasing it might alienate parents who might want a say in how AHC is run.

The proposal on membership definition was not approved, but a change to the quorum percentage was proposed:

Current wording:

*The quorum shall be deemed to be formed if one tenth of the membership is present.*

New wording:

*The quorum shall be deemed to be formed if 5% of the membership (up to a maximum of 25 members) are present.*

This amendment was approved by over 2/3 of the members present and the constitution will be amended with immediate effect.

The broader question of how to increase AGM attendance was discussed with no conclusion. Should for instance the AGM be combined with a social event?

**Action: Executive Committee to set up a sub-group to review and update the constitution, including how the AGM process should work.**

### **Election of Officers**

The list of Officers elected at the AGM are:

<b>Officer</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Chairman	Dave Harvey
Membership Secretary	Matt Steven
Treasurer	Matt Steven
Club Secretary	Richard Moffat
Junior Development Chairman	John Swan
Fixtures secretary	Ian Southgate
Umpiring Officer	Lawrence Jones
Publicity Officer	Tom Pate
Welfare Officer	Gayle Moir
Social Secretary (joint 1)	Paul Chester
Social Secretary (joint 2)	Becky Chester
Volunteer Co-ordinator	Gary Ward
Webmaster	Matt Steven
Ladies' Club Captain	Vicky Small
Men's Club Captain	TBC

The role of Men's Club Captain was discussed in more detail. Adrian Trim explained the role had been created to reduce the numbers attending the Exec Committee, which the constitution stated needed to include team captains. Dave Compton (DC) felt that the Club Captain had to be independent, attend training, selection meetings and liaise with the Junior Development Chairman to ensure the pipeline of talent continued to move up into the senior teams. FH noted that consistency of coaching messages was key for those transitioning from junior to senior hockey.

John Wallace has expressed via proxy his agreement to continue as Club Captain, although Sophie Wallace added the JW appreciated that his involvement had limits given work pressures. JW was acknowledged as having strongly pushed for Junior development. LJ also wished to be considered for Men's Club Captain.

**Action: DH to discuss with JW and LJ and agree who should take on the Men's Club Captain role.**

It was agreed that the role of a Junior Umpire Liaison Manager should be added to the Junior Committee along with the Schools Liaison Officer.

#### **Other matters**

CG requested for umpire availability to be included on the website. RM responded that this had been discussed by the Exec Committee and that MS would be addressing with the vendor Hit Sports this summer.

CG also asked if there was any intention to expand the Ladies Section with a 4<sup>th</sup>XI given amalgamation of Hampshire and Dorset leagues. VS answered that the current priority was to consolidate the current teams and ensure all playing in the appropriate divisions, as well as resolving 2018/19 doubling up issues.

#### **Closing remarks**

The Chairman thanked those assembled, including the proxies, for attending and closed the meeting.

## Appendix I

### Attendees by proxy

The following attended by proxy (Richard Moffat)

Donald Histead  
Neil Davidson  
Josh Davidson  
Caroline Orange  
Gemma Orange  
Sam Orange  
Thomas Orange  
Ben Horton  
Isobel Horton  
Charlotte Horton

The following were represented by those attending (in brackets):

Euan Moir (Gayle Moir)  
Fraser Moir  
Pete Harvey (Dave Harvey)  
Annabel Steven (Matthew Steven)  
Henry Steven  
Katie Steven  
Molly Steven  
Elaine Trim (Adrian Trim)  
Daniel Trim  
Joseph Tynan (Pete Tynan)  
Seth Tynan  
Mel Tynan  
John Wallace (Sophie Wallace)  
Mairead Cooney (Simon Cooney)  
Dominic Cooney  
Ellie Chester (Paul Chester)  
Bex Chester  
Grace Chester  
Evie Kercher (Martin Kercher)  
Jessica Kercher  
Grace Hamilton (Forbes Hamilton)