



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Minutes

**Attendees (39):** Dave Harvey (DH), Matt Steven (MS), Gayle Moir (GM), Bex Chester (RC), Paul Chester(PC), Ian Southgate (IS), Gary Ward (GW), Vicky Small (VS), Martin Kercher (MK), Jon Swan (JS), Pete Tynan (PT), Jo Ryan (JR), Kevin Scowcroft (KS), Andrew Stratford (AS), Steph Millington-Clark (SM), Richard Spicer (RS), Dave Compton (DC), Whitney Chobbah (WC), Tasha Lindley (NL), Simon Cooney (SC), Kieran Southgate (KS), Forbes Hamilton (FH), Lauren Stubley (LS), Mark Emmerson (ME), Nikki Bird (NB), Chris Donnelly (CD), Sue Pond (SP), Natalie Milner (NM), Martin Green (MG), John Wallace (JW), Sophie Wallace (SW), Dominic Samuelson (DS), Jenny Footit (JF), Jason Smith (JS), Louise Yeadon (LY), Joe Yeadon (JY), Gareth Morgan (GM2), Caroline Orange (CO), Colin Gamble (CG).

**Apologies (0).**

#### 1. Minutes of last AGM.

There were no changes. Ian Southgate proposed that the minutes be approved, Bex Chester seconded. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

#### 2. Chairman's remarks (see Appendix 1 for copy of full report)

#### 3. Junior chairman's remarks (see Appendix 2 for copy of full report)

#### 4. Treasurer's report<sup>1</sup>

- MS presented his report. He highlighted that income and expenditure were down on last season due to the abrupt ending. He highlighted that the club is in profit and explained that as a committee we have agree to run with a small profit margin every year, this is to build up a contingency fund for development e.g. the new astoturf.
- DS asked why the growth in subscription isn't reflected proportionately in match fees? MS explained that growth is primarily juniors. The increase has mainly been in juniors, many play adult hockey but only pay a junior rate of match fee so the increase in income is less that it would if the subscription increase was caused by an increase in adult members. The youngest juniors play relatively infrequent festivals and so there is little opportunity for match fees.
- DS noted summer income was £2,500 last year which we won't get this year due to the pandemic. He asked how this will affect the club? MS said summer income generally covers summer activity e.g. pitch hire, match fees for men's summer league. As neither will take place the club should break even over the summer period.
- JR asked whether club accounts have been audited. MS said that Lewis Jones will audit but this has not been done yet as the accounts only closed last week.

Dave Harvey proposed that the accounts be accepted by the membership. Seconded by Martin Kercher. Agreed unanimously.

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<sup>1</sup> The meeting omitted to offer the members a vote on subscription charges for the 20-21 season. Sincere apologies for this oversight. The committee do not propose to increase subscriptions for the forthcoming season. If any member wishes to challenge this decision they are invited to contact the committee. An EGM process is available to raise a members vote on this decision if the membership feel it is necessary to do so.



5. **Election of officers.** DH thanked all the members who are standing as new officers on the committee this year. All officers were elected unanimously.

Role	2020-2021	Nominated	Seconded
Chairman	Dave Harvey	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Club Secretary	Martin Green	Dave Harvey	Gayle Moir
Treasurer	Matt Steven	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Junior Chairman	Jon Swan	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Membership Secretary	Matt Steven	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Fixtures Secretary	Ian Southgate	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Umpiring Officer	John Wallace	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Welfare Officer	Gayle Moir	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Social Secretary	Bex & Paul Chester	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Publicity Officer	Lauren Stublely	Gary Ward	Vicky Small
Ladies club captain	Vicky Small	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Men's Club captain	John Wallace	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Committee Member (Volunteer Co-ordinator)	Gary Ward	Martin Kercher	Jo Ryan
Committee Member	Richard Spicer	Gayle Moir	Vicky Small
Committee Member	Steph Millington-Clark	Vicky Small	Gayle Moir
Committee Member	Mark Emmerson	Gayle Moir	Matt Steven

6. **Any other business.** A resolution to amend the club constitution (as below) was proposed by Ian Southgate seconded by Matt Steven.
- MG asked whether the existing committee are in unanimous agreement with the proposal. DH confirmed that they are.
- The resolution passed unanimously.

#### **Current wording**

##### **OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Club shall be: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Captains of each men's, ladies' and mixed teams, Managers of the Colts teams, Club Coach, Social Secretary, and Publicity Officer where officers shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting

#### **Proposed wording**

##### **OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Club shall be: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary, Club Captains Men's & Ladies', Junior Chairman, Social Secretary, and Welfare Officer where officers shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting

#### **Current wording**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE a) The Club shall be managed by the Executive Committee which will consist of the following Officers: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Captain of the Men's first team, Captain of the Ladies' first team, Social Secretary, Publicity Officer plus four other members who shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting.

#### **Proposed wording**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE a) The Club shall be managed by the Executive Committee which will



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consist of the following Officers: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Fixture Secretary, Club Captains Men's & Ladies', Junior Chairman, Social Secretary, Welfare Officer plus four other members who shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting.

## Appendix 1 – Chair's Report

Good evening and welcome to the AHC AGM, the first AGM we have conducted online.

The 2019/20 season has certainly been different... The rather abrupt finish to the season has had to be accepted by everyone but our first duty must be to ensure everyone is safe. I am grateful to members of the club together with the wider world of hockey both Hampshire Hockey Association and England Hockey for their swift and effective support.

Despite the current pandemic Alton Hockey Club has continued to develop, grow and be successful. The club prides itself on being a family orientated, community-based club wanting to provide opportunities for players of all ages to play hockey. As the club has grown with more members and more teams it is important, we remember our basic philosophy. Our role is to provide maximum opportunities for as many players to play hockey, this requires commitment and compromise in equal measures. 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 or the numerous social events seem seamless. I also want to thank the team captains who make things happen both on and off the pitch to such good effect, the creation this past season of Men's and Ladies club captains has also had significant impact on the smooth running of the club. It is particularly gratifying that so many members are willing to step up to help run the club. One of my original goals when I first became Chairman was to ensure that the club was not over dependent on just a few people and to develop a wide officer base. This has been achieved and is one of the reasons the club is so successful.

The fruits of this policy has included the growth and exceptional development of the Junior section that is supported by senior players which in turn is reflected in the steady flow of young players into our senior ladies and men's sides. The junior section of the club has been superbly led by Jon Swann, and with the support of parents and team managers has been pivotal in establishing the firm foundations we need to build future success upon. The Junior committee, that was only created two years ago, has continued to have a major impact on the club so a major thank you to all involved in particular managers and parents, this is the lifeblood and future of the club. It is no coincidence that our junior teams have been so successful. The U14 Girls who won the Div 2 North league and the U18 girls Division 1 winners perhaps being the highlight. All age groups have made an impact on their leagues and together with joyful mini tournaments, foreign tours, and terrific holiday hockey camps there is much positivity to reflect upon. More players than ever have represented Hampshire and again 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, commitment and creativity. I would like to thank Matt, Gayle (and earlier in the season Richard), John/Lozz, Vicky, Gary, Paul/Bex, Ian and Jon. A big thanks to Kieran who has quietly but effectively handled social media. Subgroups such as the Junior committee,

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social team, fantasy hockey, club mark and development committees have all quietly made a huge contribution to the club. We continue to develop our relationships with both Eggar's and Amery Hill Schools. Midweek training at Eggar's has continued to be a real bonus saving travel time but more importantly keeping hockey in the town of Alton. Thank you to all the coaches and players who make this 'happen' week in /week out. In that sense the success of the club is a genuine team effort, we may not always get it right but we do try and everyone gives their best. The development plan has an emphasis on developing all aspects of the club from juniors to seniors to umpiring and facilities. Successfully keeping all these balls in the air at the same time is a reflection of where we are as a club.

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.

On the pitch the Ladies 1 XI who finished runners up, were promoted from league 1 to the premier league with the Ladies 2 finishing as champions of Div 5. The newly created Ladies 3 team finished 4 in Div 6 but have also been promoted. I think the ladies can look back and be proud of their season. The men's first X1 finished 5th in div 2 and the men's 2's and 3's both capped a competitive season by being promoted. The final table had the 3's as champions on goal difference from the 2's. We now need to continue push on, so the second team are closer to the first team in terms of league structure. The men's 4s, 5s, and 6s have all contributed to the flow of young, and older/mature new players and enjoyed their hockey so there is a lot to look forward to next season.

Of course, the league season has concluded and normally we would have a full summer season of fun hockey from back to hockey programmes, junior hockey camps and summer leagues all in place. When we get back to some degree of normality, I am sure we will all appreciate playing and watching hockey just that little bit more!

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. In the meantime, stay safe and keep in contact with the club.

Thank you.

Dave Harvey

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## Appendix 2 – Junior Chair's report

Despite a rather strange end to the season I think we can confidently say that we broke all records again being hugely successful as a junior section, as teams and as individual players.

Membership was up by nearly 20% with 320 junior members by the end of the season. This, I hope, is a testament to way the club sets out to develop people to the best of their potential whilst making sure that everyone has fun. We had 25 new joiners in the second half of the season showing what word of mouth does when you get the recipe right.

Clearly this doesn't happen without a huge amount of volunteer effort. I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the volunteers who have coached and managed teams as well as those who have umpired, stood in the rain registering players for training on damp pieces of paper, juggled fixtures between weekends and pitches and provided the essential training kit. We could not operate a successful club without you.

The list of volunteers is too long to thank everyone by name (and I would undoubtedly miss someone), but I have done a bit of analysis of the time volunteered to support the junior club and in broad numbers it looks something like:

- 1000 hrs of coaching (training sessions, matches and session planning)
- 160hrs of match day management
- 240hrs off pitch management (pitch bookings, match planning, team management etc)
- 100hrs of signing in and additional first aid cover
- 90hrs of umpiring

For people to collectively give up over 1500hrs of their time over the course of a season is truly phenomenal.

At an individual level we were very proud to see so many of our players make their first steps on the England Hockey Player Pathway, being committed and enthusiastic at Development Centres and subsequently a record 28 Alton players selected to represent Hampshire. To put that into context, as a club we came a close second to the mighty Trojans overall (but had most players represented across Hampshire in the girls teams). We also had four players selected to attend South of England Performance Centres (the step up from County) with Ellie Chester going on to be selected to play for the Wessex Leopards in the Futures Cup and then to an England assessment camp to trial for the U16 squad.

We had some great team performances in the leagues, Hampshire and England Hockey cup and away on tour. Collectively the teams played a total of 79 league and cup games and 25 festivals and In2Hockey tournaments. Several teams finished the season at the top of their leagues and we still had two teams (U10 and U14 girls) through to represent Hampshire at South Region cup competitions that have subsequently been cancelled..

I was also hugely proud to see so many of the junior club take the step up into adult hockey this season. Part of our strategy is to provide that transition and welcome players into what we hope is a lifelong love of the game as part of the hockey family. We entered a 6<sup>th</sup> Team in the men's league to create a stepping stone from junior to men's adult hockey and in the ladies section saw the junior members make a significant contribution to the overall success with all three ladies teams gaining

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promotion. A big thank you to Pete, Caroline, Sophie and Nicki for their support as senior team captains in welcoming and nurturing junior players this season at training and in matches.

Finally I would like to thank all the players who have given so much on and off the pitch this season and the parents who have taxied their children to Eggars and then around the County and beyond supporting teams at matches. The way that players and parents represent the club by their attitude and behaviour at matches is (nearly) always exemplary. We have a club to be very proud of and a friendly yet competitive reputation in Hampshire and beyond.

Jon Swan (Junior Chair)

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