



**NORTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF 16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, 6 JUNE 2016 AT HALIFAX HOCKEY CLUB**

Present:

Council/Executive:

C. Regan	President
R. Lomas	Immediate Past President
C. J. Reece	Hon. Secretary/RCC
A.O. Moore	Hon. Treasurer
Annette Badger	Vice President
Mrs A. Bryant	Competitions
Miss E. Ellison	LHA
J.M. Scrinì	Deputy President/LHA
A. Pettigrew	YHA
Ann Marshall	Performance
C. Todd	EH-VP
P. Howland	LHA
C. Cameron	NHUA/Cumbria HA
J. Birrell	LHA

In Attendance:

Heather Douglas EH – RM

Clubs: Paul Gannon Brooklands MU, Angela Wright and David Wheatley Halifax H.C.

1) President's Welcome

CER opened the meeting; a minutes silence was taken in respect of People Passed Away: Tony Moffatt (NHA and Life Member), Stan Johnson (Former President Cheshire), Len Holland (President Chester H.C.) and Bar Rylands (Life Member and NCWHA President)

2) Apologies for absence:

Hon. Life Members: John Land (LM), Des Roberts (LM), Jocelyn Blackburn (LM), Marie Birtwhistle (LM), Mike Roff (LM), Ian Watson (LM).

Council/Executive

Chris Darling (Performance), Bill Ball (Bowdon, Cheshire HA), Phil Thomas (YHA), Amanda Parker (Information Officer), Tony Taig (Masters), Andy Tapley (EH-NED), Robin Hart (DHA), Eileen Marchant (Welfare), Angela Riley (YHA), Chris Kingscott (Discipline), Peter Thomas (LHA), and Gill Cussons (LHA).

Clubs

Liverpool Sefton

3) Appointment of Tellers

It was agreed by the meeting that tellers would be appointed if required.

4) Minutes of the previous meeting

These were accepted as a true record, there were no matters arising.

5) Hon. Secretary's Report: CJR recorded once again the Notice and relative documentation was available on the NHA website, and emailed with only a few notices sent out by post, saving time and money.

Affiliation: again all North Clubs completed on time, CJR worked closely with the EH-RM's to ensure this.

We continue to have a good working relationship with the EH-North Office Relationship Managers.

Explained to the meeting that earlier in the season we had discussed the roles of Council and the Executive and had agreed that

Council is the superior body (as it was set out and agreed at the outset) and has full representation from the Counties, and that the

Executive is for emergencies and the consideration of strategic issues, where there are fewer numbers to have in depth conversation, easier than Council, and make recommendations to Council.

Angela Riley is standing down from Hockey and she has supported NHA for many years attending meetings and providing refreshments, Angela Wright and David Wheatley Halifax H.C, indicated that they continue to support NHA, AOM offered that NHA will pay for refreshments.

CER is to send Flowers to Angela Riley on behalf of NHA.

We have appointed Life Members: Chris Kingscott (RDA), Tony Moore (Hon Treasurer) and Joanne Lewis (NHWL)

Have a good summer, ensure you have signed in.

- 6) **Hon. Treasurer's Report:** AOM presented the Annual Accounts for the Association for the period ended 31st March 2015, along with a report and the Examiners report, Copies of which are kept permanently with the minutes, highlighting:
He is pleased to present the Annual Accounts for the Association for the period ended 31st March 2016
Our Income amounted to £18,142 and Expenditure was £18556 leaving us with a small deficit of £819
We contributed £1,567.00 towards our JAC and JRPC activities
Our competition entry fees were £1860 this year, largely due to Masters Hockey
Our Reserves increased by just over £12,000.00 as our JRPC activities produced a significant surplus as a result of higher than budgeted participants at the JRPC centres.
Although we are continuing to face demands to support various activities - Masters Hockey - Umpire Development - Provision of Technical officials - indoor hockey and U-21 girls and the Executive recommend that we maintain the Clubs Levy at £14.00 this year, Proposed AOM, Seconded AB and was unanimously approved.
AM recorded: JRPC's income this year Durham has broken even, whilst Leeds and Manchester numbers were up, which also enabled additional coaching. However, it is difficult to forecast for next year with the imminent changes to the Single System.
Polly Howland: questioned whether there is a plan for the Reserves, to which AOM explained that in recent seasons NHA had supported the funding of Umpire Radios (£8.000) and setting up and developing the NHA Web System.
- 7) **Sub-committee Reports**
- a) **Competitions:** AB submitted a report, a copy of which kept permanently with the minutes, highlighting the following: A men's League a team had been relegated for playing an ineligible player (further information recorded in the Discipline report).
Amendments to the report submitted: Timperley have been promoted to the Women's National League (not Doncaster).
Alderley Edge and Harrogate should be congratulated for reaching EH Women's Trophy final which Alderley Edge won on shoot out after a 1-1 draw. Congratulation to Formby on reaching EH Women's Vase and EH Mixed Final which was held yesterday (Sunday 5th June). Unfortunately both finals were lost by the odd goal.
- b) **Umpires:** CC presented the report from NHUA MC (Chair Brian Linfield), a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes, highlighting: The first and most important issue is the chronic shortage of umpires available for appointment. This has been an issue for several seasons but is now close to developing into a crisis for NHUA. We have been working very hard with the County Associations in an attempt to develop umpires.
It has been a constant struggle to appoint to matches and the coming season appears to be developing in the same way. Appointing umpires to Regional Matches is our primary role. NHUA will be looking at the feasibility of diverting some coaching resources to the County HUA's to assist them in progressing umpires to us.
Throughout last season appointments had to be changed because of illness, injury or umpires being called up by the NPUA. The record was Jan 30th with 29 changes made. Annette Badger is to be applauded for all the work she puts into getting umpires onto games week after week.
Radios: CJR added that at the time of purchasing the radios, there was no maintenance and replacement programme put in place, as such it is possible that we may be short of radios for newly qualified umpires for the start of the season, EE added that Umpires had each paid £25.00 towards the cost and this was put in the reserves, CJR however, this has not been ring fenced in the reserves, EE added that the Graham Nash Fund could be used towards the cost of purchasing new radios.
AKB added that we (NHUA) need to put together a programme of replacing the radios which are three years old, and replenishing the stock of spare radios, and is likely that we may have to approach the NHA in the future for funding.
- c) **Masters:** Tony Taig (not present) submitted a report, a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes.
- d) **Performance Committee:** AM submitted a report a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes, highlighting, it is only now, months after she was appointed Chair, to fully appreciate the amount and scope of work Chris Darling does and has done. She recorded that she is only to manage the role with the help of the excellent volunteers in the Performance group.
Manchester JRPC, there have been selection issues (Transparency of selection) of which she is involved in solving.
AM gave an over view of the imminent changes to the Single System that are being implemented for the 2016-17 season, following the EH Consultation process.
Junior Regional Performance Centre's will be called Performance Centre's and will provide frequent high quality training with the best coaches supporting our best players. Performance Centre's will run from September to July (January 2017 to July 2017 in the transition year) on Monday evenings, midweek during holidays and Sundays.
There will be 17 Performance Centre's located across the country, which will come together in four competitions clusters through the year.
North - proposed venues are:
University of Leeds (Leeds Performance Centre)
Brooklands HC (Manchester Performance Centre)
Durham University (Durham Performance Centre)
Mill Farm (Fylde Performance Centre)
She has concerns with Durham as they may not have enough juniors, Fylde is currently is an unknown entity.

8) Other Reports

a) Discipline Officer: Chris Kingscott (not present), submitted a report, a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes. JMS recorded in the men's league that a team had been relegated for playing a player who was banned on the yellow card totting up procedure under an assumed name, also their also associated disrepute charges that are under consideration with the RDA, the club involved have accepted the relegation without appeal, and have suspended the Captain and player involved. He also recorded that he has undertaken analysis of yellow cards following the introduction of the two minute green and yellow cards are down by 34%.

b) Information Officer: Amanda Parker (not present), submitted a report, a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes, CJR highlighted:

- Clubs need to do their housekeeping on the website ie:
- Ensure access passwords are passed to the correct officers for 2016/2017 season
- Ensure all contact details and officers are up to date
- Check venue details, club colours etc

RDL requested that CJR contacts TEX, to discuss whether it is possible to set up for NHA produce a report of when individuals have logged and checked/updated their contact details, CJR recorded that is already in place for clubs.

c) Welfare Eileen Marchant (not present) submitted a report, a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes, CJR highlighted:

Once again there is nothing of any significance to report with regard to any welfare issues which is always gratifying; however once again I wish to stress that it is important that we do not become complacent and that we continue to operate within the excellent guidance published by England Hockey, see the England Hockey Website: SAFE D SAFEGUARDING THE HOCKEY FAMILY (Safeguarding Young People in Hockey - Policy, Procedures and Good Practice Guidance

He requested that County Reps remind their Counties that: each County within the North should have a list of Welfare Officers for each of the clubs within the county; this position is just as important as that of other officers named within the handbook. Should there be any safe guarding issues it is crucial that every member in the club is very clear to whom they should go to.

Also that requested that County Reps remind their Counties that: each County within the North should have a list of Discipline Officers for each of the clubs within the county.

Time To Listen (TTL) reminder that it is important for Welfare Officer to attend these courses.

d) Regional Consultative Committee (RCC): CJR submitted a report a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes, highlighting, the role and responsibilities of this England Hockey Committee,

a. The RCC advise the board and will provide an important interface between the Board and the Volunteer administrators. They will be the catalyst to ensure that best practice is adopted through all levels and in all areas of hockey in England on a common basis, including both playing and administrative matters. They will ensure that hockey operates most efficiently and productively, maximising the contribution from volunteer time.

b. The RCC will provide a communication channel for members to the board and for the board to the members through:

- i.** disseminating information on operations,
- ii.** gathering information on issues affecting the game at grass-roots levels,
- iii.** ensuring a positive and dynamic dialogue between staff and volunteers, and
- iv.** identifying the most capable volunteers to participate on committees at all levels.

c. The Board will consult with the RCC on engaging and dismissing and the terms of reference of employment of the Executive Directors.

d. The RCC will constitute and perform the duties of the audit committee as required by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

e. The RCC will perform the duties of the Appeal Panel on disciplinary procedures as set out in regulation 6 of the Regulations of England Hockey

f. The RCC will keep minutes of all proceedings at its meetings and of committees and sub-committees, including the names of those present at each such occasion.

The RCC has met on three occasions during the past year.

Main Topics Have been:

- The Role of Regions and Counties.
- Affiliation Process
- Masters Tournaments and entry fees
- Junior Competitions and Review
- Schools Competitions Review
- Technical Red Cards/Discipline Code

Neville Wrench (South Region has been appointed Chair)

Meetings for 2016-17 have been agreed and are: 11 October 2016, 10 January 2017 and 9 May 2017.

Also discussed at the RCC meeting in May, Sally Munday and Rich Beer are aiming to attend a Council meeting of each Region in the coming season.

e) Relationship Manager: Heather Douglas submitted a report a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes, highlighting, this is a concise report is based on the work and that the Relationship Managers (herself, Julie Longden and Lynne Dobison) have undertaken during the past year.

She reiterated the importance of Club Welfare and Discipline Officers.

Affiliation - Every Member Counts

It may seem early but we want to give the clubs as much notice as possible to ensure Every Member Counts. The affiliation process can at times be an onerous task and there is a valid reason that we need to ensure that we collect information accurately. To help clubs complete this we have provided a player definition to ensure that "Every Member Counts". It is important for clubs to report all players as specified in our definition below so we can report favourably to our funders, especially as we are now towards the end of our Whole Sport Plan, as they will be looking at our progress made against our growth targets in preparation for future funding allocations.

#HockeyFest 2016

The rebranding of "Club Weekend" to #HockeyFest is now in its second season and last year saw a record number of 335 clubs take part in the biggest national campaign of the year and this year we are looking to improve on that. Nationally we already have 304 looking to take part from August 20th to September 11th 2016 which coincides with the Rio Olympics.

Maria Finelli, unfortunately she is leaving to take up a role with Sport England, she will not be replaced in the immediate future, as we almost through the four year Sport England Funding cycle, and we do not currently what the funding will be, also the role may change with the Junior Competitions review and changes to the regional/County Structure, for Admin Elaina *Leithead* Regional Administrator Midlands Office will support the North.

f) England Hockey Board: CJR recorded that he does not have a formal report, however, he CT and Andy Tapley attended the EH AGM in March, where it was recorded that club Affiliation is to increase by 1.5% for 2016-17.

CJR reported that he has also been in contact with Andy Tapley, and although he is moving out of the area, he will continue to support the North Region, and intends to complete his term of Office (EH-NED).

9) Election of Officers:

Nominations for the following officials were taken en bloc proposed EE and seconded AP and duly elected by the meeting:

President	Mrs. C. Regan
Deputy President	J.M. Scrinì
Immediate Past President	R. Lomas
Honorary Secretary	C. Reece
Honorary Treasurer	A.O. Moore
Vice President:	Annette Badger

10) Appointment of a qualified Auditor/Examiner:

AOM proposed Peter Clark ACA (Fraser Clark) – seconded JMS this was agreed by the meeting.

11) Amendments to NHA Constitution

5.1.10 Amend to Members co-opted by Council. Council may co-opt to Council or Executives committees and such co-optees shall have the power to vote. Proposed RDL, seconded AB and agreed by the meeting.

12) AOB

CJR has scheduled meeting Dates for Council and Executive, will circulate.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

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Hon. Secretary

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President

June 2017