



**NORTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2018 AT HALIFAX HOCKEY CLUB**

**Present:**

**Council/Executive:**

C. Regan	President
J.M. Scrinì	Deputy President/LHA
C. J. Reece	Hon. Secretary/RCC
A.O. Moore	Hon. Treasurer
Annette Badger	Vice President/NHUA
Chris Darling	Co-Opted
Ann Marshall	Performance
Tony Shutt	NHUA/Cheshire
Alison Willoughby	Welfare
Bev Deakin	Vice President Elect

**In Attendance:**

**Clubs:** Adderley Edge (Phil Benton), Lancaster & NWHL Division 2 Coordinator (Leighan Bleasdale), Northern Women (Keeley Lowry-Johnson and Nikki Hannah) and Richmond Men's (Wil Jones).

**1) President's Welcome**

CER opened the meeting; opened the AGM with a minute's silence in respect for north people who have passed away since the last AGM.

North HA Life Member John Craven-Griffiths OBE

John Craven-Griffiths died peacefully on 13th August 2017. John was awarded an OBE, was a Group Captain in the RAF, a and an Umpire of renown both for the RAF and North etc.

George Tynemouth Long Time Stalwart of Sunderland Hockey Club and prior to that Sunderland Saints and Sunderland Pheonix (who later became South Shields, passed away on 9th August 2017. George was County President 1981-83 and was a member of the 1962 Durham County Championship winning side.

John Siddall passed away on Monday 8th January. In addition to his membership of Styx Hockey Club he was a Past President of both Halifax Hockey Club & Yorkshire County Hockey Association.

Des Roberts Life Member and STYX Member passed away on 18th April 2018, obituary was put on EH Web

Bernard French: It is with great sadness that we have to report that Bernard died on Wednesday 6th June 2018. As many of you will remember Bernard was the inaugural President of NHUA. Bernard did so much to promote umpiring in the North and was one of the driving forces of the amalgamation of the men's and women's HUA's. The funeral will be held at Park Wood Crematorium, Park Road, Elland, HX5 9HZ on Wednesday 20 June at 10.30

**2) Apologies for absence:**

**Hon. Life Members:**

Eunice Ellison, Jo Blackburn, Peter Richardson, Ian Watson, Mike Roff, Judith Nicholson, Chris Todd, Marie Birtwhistle, Anne Bryant, Freda Walker, Monica Pickersgill, Mike Talbot, John Sale, Liz Grant, John Land, Chris Kingscott, Gill Cussons

**Council**

W.F.N. Ball (Bowdon/Cheshire HA), Amanda Parker JP DL (Information Officer), Miss June Birrell (LHA), Tony Taig (Masters), Peter Thomas (LHA), Roger Lomas (Immediate Past President/Sheffield Hallam), Chris Kingscott (Discipline), Colin Cameron (NHUA/Cumbria), Jon Bray (YHA), Robin Hart (Durham), Peter Thomas (LHA).

Clubs: Preston (Julian Hickinbottom), Rochdale (Sean Carney), Whitby (Zara Noble), Lymm (Lynne Pymann) and Kingston Upon Hull (Di Kirkby).

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

Once again the AGM calling Notice was sent by email, (with a only a few sent by post).

EH Affiliation: The majority of North Clubs completed the process on time, (working closely with the RM's and Counties).

Life Members: We have appointed 2 new Life Members: Chris Regan and Bob Matlby

EH Relationship Managers: We continue to have an excellent relationship with the RM's (CJR had two meetings this year with the RM's). Harriet Tebbs, Gary Johnson, Helen Clarke, Admin: Elaina Leithead,

NHA Council/Executive Meetings 2017-18, 3 council and 2 Exec meetings and we also hosted a EH Governance Consultation at Weetwood 27th November 2017 (Rich Beer and Yew Consulting).

6) **Hon. Treasurer's Report:** AOM presented the Annual Accounts for the Association for the period ended, the accounts have been circulated prior the AGM, AOM recorded: present the Annual Accounts for the Association for the period ended 31st March 2018 Our Income amounted to £23150 but our Expenditure was £24101 leaving us with a small deficit of £950

Against all expectations our Performance Centre activities produced another surplus and our Reserves remain in a very healthy position.

Although we are continuing to face demands to support various activities – Masters Hockey, Umpire Development, Provision of Technical officials and indoor hockey and U-21 girls.

The Executive recommend that we maintain the Clubs Levy at £14-00 this year. This was proposed by AOM seconded by AW, ratified by those present.

7) **Sub-committee Reports**

a) **Competitions:** GH not present no report submitted, JMS recorded: Promotions to EHL Alderley Edge Men and Leeds Women, relegated from EHL Deeside Ramblers Man, and Wakefield Women.

Men's County Championships IOM won the B Division and Lancashire won the C Division.

AKB recorded that IOM also won the Women's Cock of the North Competition.

b) **Umpires:** AKB submitted a report, a copy of which kept permanently with the minutes, adding: that England Hockey have set up a working group (of which she is the North representative) to review the structure of HUA's, how we the challenge of servicing the league and also develop umpires. There have been several meetings and the next meeting is on Sunday 24 June, and there has been good progress.

c) **Masters:** Tony Taig 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, recording: that the North has four performance centres, which is not ideal but required to geographical reasons, limit travel of players.

2017-18 marks the first full season of the Player Pathway after the 2017 transition year.

The playing schedule, focusing on regular contact with players on Monday evenings, was heavily hit by the severe winter weather.

All sessions are/have been rescheduled. The calendar for 2018-19 is being redrafted to reduce the number of Monday evenings during the winter, especially through December and January.

Squad sizes were reduced to 18 for 2017-18. Not all squads are full, some are marginally higher. The intention is to maintain the playing standard rather than simply fill squads.

Selection for 2018-19 is already under way.

U15s will be selected following an assessment day on June 10 of coaching and game play at three venues. 36 boys and 36 girls will be selected (plus reserves) east and west of the Pennines. They will then be allocated fairly to the four centres based on travelling time.

This will not necessarily be to their nearest centre.

U17s will be selected from the existing players (plus some who have been nominated following late AC competitions for a final assessment in June) by the Head Coaches. Players will, in the main, remain at the same PC if selected.

All players selected for 2018-19 will be notified before the end of July

Many thanks to all who have contributed to organisation of all NPC activities. With the PCs, ACs and the competitions, both indoor and outdoor, there are many who have made these run so successfully; including tournament organisers, umpires, and volunteers.

Without these and the support of parents, youth hockey in the North could not function so successfully.

8) **Other Reports**

a) **Discipline Officer:** Chris Kingscott (not present), submitted a report, a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes. CER recorded their North's thanks to Chris who is standing down after several years' service to north.

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

c) **Welfare Officer:** Alison Willoughby, submitted a report, a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes adding:

England Hockey is undertaking a project looking at the number and causes of head injuries in hockey.

Ali Willoughby, North HA Welfare Officer is collating the information for the North. Could all clubs please forward completed accident forms to Ali (alison.taylor1968@hotmail.co.uk).

This applies to all head injuries, regardless of the age of the player.

CER requested CJR to put a news item on the North Global news items.

**d) Regional Consultative Committee (RCC):** CJR submitted a report a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes, RCC has met on three occasions this year: 9th October 2017, 9th January 2018 and 8th May 2018

We also had a Tele-Conference Call meeting with Ian Wilson (IW) in March to discuss the proposed amendments to the Articles of the Association, which were subsequently approved at the EH AGM March 2018.

The main topics at meetings this year have been:

**I. EH Governance Review/Consultation**

Following the 2017 AGM, a working group was established of which is chaired by Liz Pelling

LP presented RCC the Executive Summary of the Governance review; the review was broken into key areas; structure, people, communications and transparency, policies and processes, standards and conduct. A lot of data was produced during the consultation process and Yvonne had refined and was presented to the Board in January 2018. LP highlighted key areas of difference of structures and views across the country. The review showed that there were opportunities for change and improvement to the governance of the sport. However the sport was not at crisis point.

**II. Affiliation Process – review of 2017 process**

798 clubs with 3761 adult teams had affiliated. There were more participants overall but a smaller number of clubs. The average number of teams per clubs has risen as had the average number of players per club.

**III. Reorganisation of the EHL (Bridging the Gap)**

The drivers of the league restructure were the forthcoming Pro League and requests from many EHL clubs asking for change. The regional leagues had met (January 2018) and accepted the principle of a 60 team EHL. The NPUA and the RHUAs had agreed that they could accommodate the increased size.

The new structure has subsequently been issued (April 2018), that increases the EHL to 60 teams and with promotion into the EHL for 2nd XI teams for 2019-20 season. The structure will be reviewed after the Tokyo Olympics.

**IV. Review of Discipline Code**

Ian Wilson recorded that weaknesses in the disrepute regulations had been highlighted through a couple of challenging cases. As a result the Board have agreed that the regulations need to change, The Constitution and Regulations Committee had been asked to review the Code and recommend changes.

**V. General Data Protection Regulation (GTPR)**

Ian Wilson briefed the members on the GDPR. England Hockey had set up a working group across various departments and was working on what is needed internally. England Hockey will pull together guidance for clubs but for the interim The Sports Recreational Alliance have issued a technical guidance.

**VI. Umpiring Strategy update (October 2017)**

Stephen Tabb and David Elworthy provided an update. 120 courses (2300 attendees) had been run in 579 clubs over the last two years. The assessment rate was 20%. The committee noted that there was still a major issue in converting umpires into taking neutral appointments.

e) **Relationship Manager(s):** The RM's (not present) submitted a report a copy of which is kept permanently with the minutes.

**f) England Hockey Board: CJR Reported:**

League Finals were streamed on England Hockey and BBC channels.

Relationship Managers have worked with 447 out of our 800 clubs by the end of April 2018 and this means they will be ahead of their target of 450 by the end of the financial year in August.

Work is continuing on engaging with clubs on the "Your World Cup" campaign This is designed to promote participation similar to London 2012. There were some challenges as clubs were trying to cope with a backlog of matches caused by the weather and having to extend their seasons.

Toshiba have signed up as Principal Partner of GB and England Men's Hockey through to the end of 2018 which fills a gap that has been there for some time.

GDPR: England Hockey is directing enquiries to the Sports and Recreation Alliance website that has Policies, Guidance documentation and FAQ's.

The Board approved the setting up of an Elite Domestic Game Committee to replace current England Hockey league committee and progress the Bridging the Gap proposals. The Terms of Reference for this committee will be issued in the near future.

**9) Election of Officers:**

Nominations for the following officials were taken en bloc proposed TS and seconded AKB and duly elected by those present:

President	J.M. Scrinì
Deputy President	Annette Badger
Immediate Past President	Mrs. C. Regan ( <i>Year 1 of 3</i> )
Vice President:	Bev Deakin
Honorary Secretary	C. Reece
Honorary Treasurer	A.O. Moore

**Council Appointments:** (April 2018)

Welfare Officer	A. Willoughby
Regional Disciplinary Admin	P. McNulty
Deputy RDA	R. Everitt
RCC	C. Reece
IT Administrators	A. Parker/ C. Reece

- 10) **Appointment of a qualified Auditor/Examiner:**  
AOM proposed Peter Clark ACA (Fraser Clark) – seconded AKB.
- 11) **Constitution Amendments:** Constitution amendments were proposed by Council, of which they were posted on the web along with a discussion paper for comment, CER proposed that we take the amendments on block, proposed AOB, Seconded JMS, unanimously approved by those present.
- 12) **Handbook:** Council are recommending that we no longer produce and circulate the hardback version, however, we produce a pdf version that is downloadable from web, circulated and can kept up to date. Proposed JMS seconded CER.
- 12) **AOB**  
CJR has scheduled meeting Dates for Council and Executive, have been circulated prior to this AGM

Meeting 08.15pm

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Hon. Secretary

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President

June 2018