

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of GHA AGM held on 17th May 2023 at 7:30pm (via Zoom)

1 Attendance

Present: Ian Harvey (Chair), Bob Moxom (Vice Chair), Shaun Cullimore (Treasurer), Andrew Hopcraft (Secretary), James Doughty (Youth Coordinator), Helen Jefferies (Youth Coordinator & Bourton & Sherborne HC), Graham Wayland (Communications Officer), Sally Privett (West Masters representative and Women's Masters Manager) and Lisa Lundie (Welfare Officer)

Chris Dunster (Life Member, Painswick HC), Cindi Beale (Dursley HC), Liz Waltham (Cheltenham Juniors HC), Steve Foster (Cirencester HC), Sarah Jane Thompson (Lansdown HC), Fiona Lane (St Edwards School), Lisa Gibbs (Brockworth Badgers HC), Simon Wall (Winchcombe HC), Andy Wallace (Wotton-Under-Edge HC), Adam Hutchinson (Gloucester City HC) and Sam Jones (Brockworth Badgers HC).

Apologies: Jean Levy (Life Member), Howard Johnson (Life member), Rob Fynn (Stroud HC), Lindsay Ferguson (Men's Masters Manager) and Gwyn Williams (Cheltenham College).

All reports have been published on the GHA website.

2 Minutes from the 2022 AGM – 19th May 2022

The Minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on 19th May 2021 were approved.

Proposed: Shaun Cullimore *Seconded:* Sam Jones
Voting result: Yes: 14 No: 0 *Abstained:* 2

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes. At the previous AGM, clubs were asked if there would be interest in restarting a senior men's county team. No clubs have expressed an interest since then or at this AGM.

4 Finance

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. The 22/23 season showed an income of £33,440 and an expenditure of £36,061, so a loss of £2,661, taking net assets down to £44,438.

Robert Lang has kindly agreed to perform an inspection of the accounts, and his report is available on the website.

The Treasurer's Report and Financial statement was approved.

Proposed: Andrew Hopcraft *Seconded:* Graham Wayland
Voting result: Yes: 16 No: 0 *Abstained:* 1

Members subscriptions (Affiliation fees) are proposed for the 2023 – 24 season at the same levels as the 2022 – 23 season which are:

- Clubs – £30.00 per senior team
- Junior sides and Junior Clubs exempt from fees
- Schools – exempt from fees

The member subscriptions proposal for the 2023/24 season was approved.

Proposed: Shaun Cullimore *Seconded:* Andrew Hopcraft
Voting result: Yes: 17 No: 0 *Abstained:* 0

It is proposed that service contract payments are increased by 10% from the current levels which are:

Service Contract	Service Contract Payment
Player Pathway Administration	£1,500
Club Junior Competition Organisation	£200
School Junior Competition Organisation	£200
Junior Festival Organisation	£300
Bookkeeping	£800
Total	£3,000

The payment levels were questioned as they might be considered to be too low to encourage others to apply for these positions given the workloads involved. There is a balance to be struck between volunteering and market rates, but also between club membership fees and resourcing festival organisation. Clubs should submit any proposal for the future to the GHA Secretary.

The proposed service contract proposal for the 2023/24 season was approved.

Proposed: Graham Wayland Seconded: Andrew Hopcraft
Voting result: Yes: 14 No: 0 Abstained: 1

5 Reports

Each of the reports were discussed and are available in full on the GHA website, with the following comments.

a. Chair

- i. There has been a full programme of hockey across the activities of Gloucestershire HA:
 - i. Men's Masters O60s two sides in EH cup
 - ii. Women's and Men's Masters players involved in Club, Area and National sides
 - iii. Full season of County (Player Pathway) DC and AC
 - iv. Full season of schools competitions
 - v. Full season of U8, U10 and U12 Festivals as well as U10 and U12 In2Hockey county rounds
- ii. This has been the first full season of the county working under the new EH governance structure:
 - i. Counties no longer have any responsibility for leagues, umpiring or coach development; these are all now managed and run by EH centrally or working with Areas
 - ii. Counties are responsible for local competitions including younger junior hockey and County Hockey (Player Pathway)
- iii. Operation of the new structure has continued to have varying degrees of success
 - i. GMS started the season badly, but eventually recovered and is now covering all older Junior competitions at EH level as well as Area Adult and Junior Leagues
 - ii. West communication has continued to be limited - links to West only through the Junior Competitions Committee and the Masters Committee
 - iii. Area and EH Forums now becoming established to improve communications
- iv. The future
 - i. EH focus

1. ED&I (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion)
2. Development of hockey in state schools
3. Growth of Masters hockey
- ii. Need volunteers to run these initiatives
 1. To define programmes and budgets
 2. Funding will be a key factor
- v. Committee meetings are being reviewed to improve effectivity and the committee have recently been looking at providing more financial support to junior players, coaches, clubs and schools
- vi. Ian has been Involved in the County Standing Committee National Working Group which
 - i. Assisted the completion of the EH Membership Policy although this did not help much in getting a definitive list of Gloucestershire members and their contact details which was only achieved at the eleventh hour, something which hopefully will be easier next season
 - ii. Raised concerns over the lack of an overall IT strategy at EH, exemplified by the latest changes to the County (Player Pathway) system with a move to the Club Buzz platform
- vii. Ian concluded by thanking the following:
 - i. Shaun Cullimore – Treasurer
 - ii. Andrew Hopcraft – Secretary
 - iii. Lisa Lundie – Schools competitions and Welfare Officer
 - iv. James Doughty and Helen Jefferies – County Hockey
 - v. Lindsay Ferguson / Nigel Sherwood – Men’s Masters Managers
 - vi. Sally Privett – Women’s Masters Manager and West Area Masters Committee
 - vii. Graham Wayland – Communications Officer
 - viii. Bob Moxom – Vice Chair

b. Youth co-ordinators

- i. Schools competitions – Participation was similar to the previous year, and all competitions went well. Costs are relatively high due to pitch hire and umpiring costs. Next season will be the last season that Lisa runs these competitions, so volunteers for the future are welcomed and should get in touch with Lisa Lundie.
- ii. Festivals and In2Hockey – Full season of Festivals and In2Hockey delivered
 - i. Festivals saw 312 team entries across U8, U10 and U12
 - ii. Slightly down on last year, but with more Clubs involved

- iii. In2Hockey county rounds held and weather was kind despite the early dates
- iv. Thank you to all the Clubs that participated, To Bournside, Dean Close and Cheltenham Ladies College schools venues whose understanding and cooperation was outstanding and to Lisa Lundie who ran the schools events, booked pitches and then amended so many over the season
- iii. County hockey (Player pathway) – all activity has been successfully moved to Kings school for indoor and outdoor.
 - i. We have had a very successful season and all teams have qualified for the county finals. We have also been involved quite heavily with Talent Academies and are now deep in to the planning for next season.
 - ii. The level of reserves at GHA was discussed. This is currently £44k.
 - iii. The GHA committee has drafted a funding policy which currently covers:

Applicant	To cover	Max total
Player TA representation	Junior players who have represented Gloucestershire may apply for a bursary to cover TA fees	£2,000
Gloucestershire State schools	Fees when representing Gloucestershire at regional or national hockey competition	£500
Affiliated GHA clubs	Fees when representing Gloucestershire at regional or national junior (U18) hockey competitions	£500
GHA Coaches	Refresher dbs checks, first aid or coach development	£1,000
Coaches	Coach development for club and state schools	£1,000
Umpires	Support to increase the number of qualified umpires	£1,000
TOTAL		£6,000

- iv. A reserve fund target of £15k for the end of 2029-30 was initially proposed by James and Helen, (based on £5k per year fixed costs and some contingency) and was discussed at length,

including whether there should be a financial target at all rather than an aspiration to invest in areas directed by England Hockey or the GHA General Committee. There was a consensus that GHA should plan to invest a bit more from the reserves, but not to what level the GHA should aspire or precisely which areas to invest in. It was agreed that any target should be reviewed annually.

The proposal to meet a reserve fund target of approximately £15,000 (+/- 10%) by the end of the 2029-30 season was approved.

Proposed: James Doughty *Seconded:* Helen Jeffries
Voting result: Yes: 8 No: 6 *Abstained:* 1

iiv. Thanks were given to our excellent GHA coaching team, GHA committee, England Hockey and the Stick Club.

c. Welfare officer

i. One incident was raised during the season and has been resolved. Liz Waltham will be taking over from Lisa for the coming season.

d. Master Managers

- i. Ladies – There has been an increase in Women’s Masters social hockey being played in Gloucestershire during the last 12 months, with some clubs playing friendly masters hockey matches on a regular basis. However, a large number of women in Gloucestershire who are Masters age group players are still playing regular league hockey for their club sides. Several Gloucestershire Clubs entered teams into the England Hockey Championships across the 3 women’s categories - Over 35s, Over 45s and Over 55s. None of the Gloucestershire teams got through to the finals, but Bretforton did get as far as the Semi Final in Tier 2 of the Over 55s competition. There are representative players from Gloucestershire Clubs in all 8 West Masters age group squads; tournaments for the squads are running through May and June. Clubs are invited to get in touch with Sally and the general Committee to further improve communications.
- ii. Mens – Nigel and Lindsay stepped down at the end of this season and will be replaced by Steve Foster and Dave Gardner.

6 Approval of reports

The reports provided for the AGM were approved.

Proposed: Sara Jane Thompson Seconded: Sally Privett
Voting result: Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstained: 0

7 Election of Officers and Members of the GHA Committee

The following Officers and Members volunteered:

Officers

Role	2023-2024 Season
Chair	Ian Harvey
Vice Chair	Bob Moxom
Secretary	Andrew Hopcraft
Treasurer	Shaun Cullimore

General Committee

Role	2023-2024 Season
Welfare Officer	Liz Waltham
Communications Officer	Graham Wayland
Masters' Co-ordinators	Sally Privett (Ladies) Steve Foster (Men)
Junior hockey Co-ordinator	Ian Harvey
Youth Co-ordinators	James Doughty Helen Jefferies
Schools Co-ordinator	Lisa Lundie

The above volunteers were elected for the 2023-2024 season.

Proposed: Sara Jane Thompson Seconded: Lisa Gibbs
Voting result: Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstained: 6

Only the Member Clubs voted on this election (Members of the committee abstained or did not vote).

8. Appointment of an Independent Examiner of the annual accounts

Our constitution requires accounts to be inspected annually.

It was approved that Robert Lang would be appointed as the independent examiner of accounts.

Proposed: Shaun Cullimore Seconded: James Doughty
Voting result: Yes: 14 No: 0 Abstained: 1

9. Any other business

a. Grants and awards

No further discussion was required, but it was agreed that the committee would endeavour to have the new funding policy in place for the start of next season.

b. Communications

This is a new role under the new EH governance structure. Graham has drafted a role description to cover:

- Outward facing communications to better market the great work done by and within the county
- Inward looking to work with clubs and schools and improve communications between England Hockey / West hockey and Clubs / Schools
- Developing a stronger social media presence for hockey in the county

Graham plans to contact clubs and schools to find the right contacts and to explore what clubs and schools would like to see.

The meeting closed at 21:15.

Andrew Hopcraft

Secretary, Gloucestershire Hockey Association

APPENDIX A – Voting

The following applies under the EH 2022 constitution:

7.1.9 The following, if present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote;

- (a) the officers of the Association and members of the General Committee
- (b) up to two representatives from each Member club with both men's and women's teams provided that all monies payable by the Member club to England Hockey, the Area and the Association has been paid;
- (c) one representative from each Member club with only women or men players or only a mixed team or teams, or which offers recreational hockey, junior hockey, Flyerz, Walking Hockey provided that all monies payable by the Member club to England Hockey, the Area and the Association has been paid;

No person voting shall cast more than one vote other than the Chair of the meeting who may in addition have a casting vote

7.1.10 The Chair of the Meeting may permit any other person whether or not that person is a representative of a Member to attend and speak at the Meeting

7.1.11 Ten Member clubs or fifty percent of Member clubs (which ever shall be the lesser figure) present and eligible to vote and at least three officers of the committee, including two of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall form a quorum

There are 23 member clubs in Gloucestershire according to England Hockey but note that Bishops Cleeve HC, East Gloucestershire HC and (it is believed) the University of Gloucestershire HC no longer run sides. The EH list is:

Bishop's Cleeve HC	Hockey Fever HC
Blockley HC	Lansdown HC
Bourton & Sherborne HC	Lydney HC
Brockworth Badgers HC	Newent HC
Cheltenham HC	Painswick HC
Cheltenham Junior HC	Puffins HC
Chipping Campden HC	Shipton Oliffe HC
Cirencester HC	Stroud HC
Dursley Ladies HC	University of Gloucestershire HC
East Gloucestershire HC	Winchcombe HC
Gloucester City HC	Wotton-Under-Edge HC
Hartpury College HC	