

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SOUTHGATE HOCKEY CLUB ON 4th JULY 2017 AT SOUTHGATE HOCKEY CENTRE, 19h00.

131ST AGM

Meeting started at 19h20.

Present:

Michelle Joubert, Neil Prior, John Willmott, Lucy Sheffield, Richard Weil, Jim Wallington, Simon Parker, Richard Beechener, Kathy Hammond, Jo Berndes, Matt McDonnell, Ebi Nafis, Liz Moss, Paul Creeley, Sam Marchant, Brian Cade, Lynn Bryden, Mark Langley.

1. Apologies

Received from: Mark Thomsett, PK Sharma, Jenny Seymour, Keith Lewis, Joro Charlton, Adrian Scott Knight, Michael Burman, Mike Fitter.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 12TH June 2016.

The minutes were agreed & felt to be a good representation of the meeting.
Signed by John Willmott. Proposer Neil Prior, Seconder Michelle Joubert.

3. Matters Arising

Follow up on Sponsorship & Video Tower – Michelle Joubert stated will be discussed in this meeting.
Presidents Fund – summarised by John Willmott – currently £12k in the fund for the M1s and L1s to split between themselves – Committee to decide what it is spent on.

4. Chairman of the Management Committee's address

Ladies

We had a great 2016-2017 season, with our L1s, 2s and 3s all promoted at the end of last season. Our L1s saw their return to the East Conference where they had some ups and downs but still managed to keep themselves firmly secured in the conference for next season. Our L1s captain Alex Robinson was the 3rd highest goal scorer in the league scoring 12 goals, of which 8 were from PCs. England International Crista Cullen only scored one more than that so well done to Alex!

Overall our Ladies had a good solid season with all teams staying put in their respective leagues for the upcoming season. Our ladies teams played a total of 106 league matches throughout the season and rallied up 191 goals between them all, with our L4s scoring top on the goal table putting away 51 goals last season and our L5s finishing with the most points on 32 and conceding the least amount of goals against their opposition, letting in only 35 goals all season!

Another congratulations goes out to our Junior Player of the Season Ami Robinson, Our Senior Player of the Year Julie Rodriguez and our L1s Robert Watson Award Winner Amy Kokkinos.

We look forward to the season ahead for the ladies as we welcome a Ladies 6th team into the mix as we enter them into the 5 counties league where they will find themselves up against the likes of St Albans, Broxbourne and Hertford.

WELL DONE LADIES and BEST of LUCK for the Upcoming Season!

Mens

It was certainly a season of highs and lows for all parts of the Mens side of the Club. Our Mens 1s saw themselves finish 3rd in the East Conference as they continue their battle back up to the Premier League. Our M2s fought through another great season of Cup games to get themselves to the Finals at Lee Valley to only narrowly miss out on the title, which they have got to 7 out of the past 9 years, needless to say our M2s won themselves Team of the Year at our End of Season Dinner!

Our other great successes for the season were many of our Mens sides that got promoted including the Flagons, Pitchers and one of our Tankards teams. GREAT SUCCESSES MEN! Well Done!

If we thought our Ladies side had some stats to be proud of our Mens Teams played over 210 league matches this past season, winning 60% of their matches and scoring a total of 695 goals!! Our top scoring team from last season were the Tankards X scoring 98 goals throughout the season, that's an average of 4.5 goals per game!

Congratulations goes out to our Junior Player of the Season Kailum Mistry, Our Senior Player of the Year Nils Lloyd-Penny and our M1s Robert Watson award Winner Timothy Smythe,

As we welcomed another Mens side to the club last season, creating a Tankards X and Y from the former Tankards Team, we have seen such growth and development amongst our juniors as they stretch into the world of Senior hockey.

A massive thank you to Mike Fitter for all of his hard work in making this initiative work so well that there will now be a 3rd Tankards team in the mix next season to continue this great work in creating an environment for the Junior boys to start feeding into the Adult side of the Club.

We are looking forward to seeing all the stats that come out of next season!

Looking forward for the Club and the Committee

New Kit

Having had a rather bad past season with Player Layer we took the tough decision to change the kit again for the club, and whilst we are all fully aware that we have a reputation for changing kits far too often we are incredibly excited to have both Adidas and Hawkins Sport on board for the coming seasons and truly believe this will be for a solid period of time. The Kit, which we have on display this evening is great quality, and whilst slightly different from what we have had in the past, it is really smart and has had some great feedback already from both the junior and senior parts of the club.

In discussing the option of new kit for the club we as the committee also decided that to ensure we do not make members pay out, yet again for new kit and to also get our members all looking the same in the great new kit we have agreed to cover the cost of a new playing shirt for each member of the adult side of the club, if they pay full subs, on time for the coming season. The cost of the Kit does not affect the subs for the coming season.

New Subs Format

Having been on the committee for a few seasons now, and being able to chat to members to get feedback and also having supported in reviewing how the subs are a. structured and b. collected, we again have revised the way in which subs are structured and are continuing to work on making it as easy and affordable as possible for you to pay your subs each season to ensure that we can continue to enjoy the hockey and everything our club has to offer.

The biggest change this season will see us take away the extra "training fees" and instead include this in the total subs amount. This will help ensure that we do not have to chase for extra money later in the season and will in fact work out around £30 cheaper on average for each member.

For example where Adult Full subs used to be £370 + £60 training fees, so a total of £430. This will now be £400 for the season and include everything.

When paying by instalment, where it used to be that you would pay a £150 deposit and then monthly instalments of £45 over 5 months it will now be £50 a month over 8 months and we will start collecting from next week for those who would like to start paying off next seasons subs.

The latest that members will need to have set up their instalment option will be by the end of September.

We are also continually reviewing what methods of payment we have available to club members to make it easy for both them and us as a committee to collect subs.

Performance Academy

Neil Prior gave summary.

What else are we focussing on this next season?

We have a lot to look forward to in the coming season, with an extra ladies and mens team coming in, our new kit, our video tower which will be completed before the end of summer, we are working tirelessly on a new sponsorship pack to engage businesses, starting in the local area. We are looking and new, better and more exciting ways to do fundraising within the club so will not have the usual expectation for any teams to have to do fundraising, we would like to approach it as a club through various events in the season and hopefully get better buy in not only from teams but their families and friends too.

We're giving our website a refresh over the summer and looking at many ways to make our social media more engaging for members, supporters, parents and fans. We are continuing to bring new seniors into the club and focus a lot of our efforts on bringing all our young junior talent up into the senior part of the club on both the ladies and mens side.

We are excited to have Danny Newcombe continue on as our M1s coach this season, and we are just as excited to have Ravi Vijh as our new L1s coach, Ravi is joining us from St Albans and we look forward to what he will bring to the club! We have a new M2s coach, Steve Pritchard, who joins us from Oxford as well as a new L2s coach Sam Marchant, who coached our L3s last season.

We continue to grow and learn as a committee and always value our members support and feedback. We always have space for more helpers to join the team and no job is too small.

I would like to personally thank all of our coaches from last season, on both the junior and senior side of the club. We have said goodbye to two very integral members of our club this season, Jonty Robinson who coached our ladies 1s over the past 3 seasons and was a massive part of getting them promoted back up to National League as well as his wife, and our L1s captain from the past 2 seasons, Alex, they have made their move back to South Africa and we wish them well as they set up the next chapter of their lives together!

I think if I had to thank every person who has helped in and around the club over the past season we would be here for a while, which is a fantastic sign that there are so many wonderful members at the club always willing to help out where they can!

To all our captains, thank you! Your efforts and encouragements for your team are such an integral part of what makes Southgate such a great club where people feel welcome.

To everyone on the committee, thank you for all of your hard work, thank you for putting up with my constant barrage of emails from countless different email addresses! thank you especially to Neil Prior who this year has not only done a great job as our treasurer keeping everything in check but also all the work you have done alongside Mike Fitter, Danny and Tom to get the performance academy up and running!

Thank you to all of our members, without you all we would not have this fantastic club! I am looking forward to another year with you all where we can grow and celebrate our successes together!

Finally, a big thank you to John Willmott for his time in as President of the club, I think that often for some of us we do not realise how much both John and his late father have done for the club over the past few decades. Whilst we look forward to welcoming a new President on board we wish John all the best and will no doubt see him around the club next season!

5. Report of the Honorary Treasurer (Accounts year ending 30th April 2017)

Circulated at meeting, Treasurer Neil Prior presented summary of report.

The Club operates as a non-profit organisation and this means that over time the income and expenditure should match. Some seasons we have a surplus and others we have a deficit, but in the long term this all evens itself out with careful management of the funds that the Club receives.

2016/17 was a year where there was a deficit. The total being £5,551. In the main this was due to the hit taken on the End of Season Dinner and the exit costs of the PlayerLayer kit contract. However, it is anticipated that with the sale of old stock and other initiatives planned for the 2017/18, this deficit will be reversed in a year's time.

Importantly, membership continues to grow - the most significant increase being in the Ladies part of the Club – the membership subscriptions, therefore, reflect this – having increased by some £4,000 accordingly. The reduction in the receipts for Junior membership should not be alarming as much of their payments were made to the Adult section as more and more Juniors start to integrate and play within the Adult teams.

For 2017/18 a new kit deal has been signed with Hawkinsport and Adidas, plus there are some exciting prospects for additional sponsorship for the year ahead.

All-in-all the accounts are in good health but, as always, additional sources of financial support need to be obtained to cover our costs and future ambitions as the Membership Subscriptions alone do not cover what is required.

Questions:

Query from Paul Creeley – Why is team fundraising money so low if each team should be collecting £300?

- Michelle Joubert - we have an issue with teams giving towards fundraising, number should be closer to £3k – reason why we are changing to club fundraising.

Shirt Number Query from Ebi Nafis – How will we manage shirt numbers in the club?

- Michelle Joubert – we haven't finalised any numbering system yet – the only numbers agreed currently is that M1s and L1s will have 1 – 30.

Subscriptions query from Richard Beechener – by equalising the monthly instalments you don't get an upfront number – what do you do if people don't want to pay training fees.

- MJ – manage as arises but subs have been reduced in theory and players getting a free shirt so should not be an issue.

Proposed by Kathy Hammond, seconded by Richard Beechener.

6. Elections

John Willmott standing down, been elected since 2011.

John Willmott proposed Richard Beechener as new president. Michelle Joubert seconded.

Richard Beechener took over chairing the meeting.

- Thanked John Willmott for his 6 years as President.
- Gave a short welcome talk about the club history and everything he has been a part of in the club.

The following officers were properly proposed, seconded and elected, except where shown:

Position	Elected Member	Proposer	Secunder
Chairman of the Management Committee	Michelle Joubert	Lucy Sheffield	Kathy Hammond
Honorary Secretary	TBC		
Assistant Secretary	Na	na	Na
Treasurer	Neil Prior	Michelle Joubert	Simon Parker
Assistant Treasurer	Na	na	Na
Chair of the Selection Committee (Men)	Neil Prior	Michelle Joubert	Ebi Nafis
Chair of the Selection Committee (Women)	Lucy Sheffield	Neil Prior	Kathy Hammond
Fixture Secretary (Men)	Mark Thompsett	Neil Prior	Lucy Sheffield
Fixture Secretary (Ladies)	Na	na	Na
Membership Secretary (Playing Members)	TBC		
Membership Secretary (Past & Non-Playing)	John Willmott	Richard Beechener	Neil Prior
Junior Section Manager	Liz Moss	Richard Beechener	Kathy Hammond
Assistant Junior Section Manager	Matt McDonnell	Richard Beechener	Neil Prior
Umpire Secretary	Mark Langley	Richard Beechener	Michele Joubert
Management Committee Members (2)	1. Sam Marchant	Michelle Joubert	Richard Beechener

Noted that we need to create a formal Sponsorship role on the committee – to be discussed at next Committee Meeting.

7. Election of Vice-Presidents

Vote for Vice Presidents – none proposed.

All other Vice-Presidents named previously were proposed by Liz Moss, seconded by Jim Wallington.

8. Election of Honorary Auditor or Independent Examiner

Howard Clayden was proposed by Neil Prior, seconded by Liz Moss and duly re-elected.

There was a vote of thanks.

9. Any Other Business

- John Willmott – Berkeley Homes:
 - Meeting 05 July 2017 with advisors to finalise strategy going forward.
 - Ideally in exchange for overflow parking loss, Berkeley Homes will build us new overflow car park on grass area near sand pitch and refurbish both our car park areas.
 - Concerns at how big the job is for the road around the back of the sand pitch to be built as a lot to consider for space, flood lights etc.
 - Concern over charging for parking – as centre will potentially be charged a fee for upkeep of Snakes lane – if the centre pay then visitors do not need to pay for parking.
 - Time frames – goes to general planning this month.
 - Pushing for new car park to be built first in 2018.
- Warrick Hoyle Gate – raised by Richard Beechener – gate has got lost because cars are parking in front of it.
 - Agreed that we can get some big pot plants that are temporary to put in front of gate and can then use elsewhere once the car park gets refurbished.
- John W – we no longer have a fixtures card – records are being lost on who was in teams, who we played, scores etc. club members etc – how are we going to manage ongoing records going forward.
 - Fixtures cards – ONLINE??? – can we reinstate?
 - Club Honours Board? – Need a budget and to keep updating it – Liz Moss – apparently there was a budget for it a few years ago? – Ask Tina Hobday – project?
 - AGM decided that committee can take away and consider options of how we can manage and engage this going forward.
 - Matt McDonnell – Annual SHC YEAR BOOK – Replace the annual magazine.
- Video Tower – off the shelf – discussion with scaffolding company about having steps rather than ladder – still aiming to have in place before first pre-season games start.

Thanks

Richard Beechener thanks to all for help over past season - Thank you to all for attending.

The meeting ended at 20h45.