

SOUTHGATE HOCKEY CLUB

AGM Minutes 17 July 2023

Present: Richard Beechener (RCB), Michelle Joubert (MJ), Neil Murphy (NM), Neil Prior (NP), Jenny Hammond (JH), Mark Thomsett (MT), Justin Edwards (JE), Leon Flack (LF), Ali Priestly (AP), Will Hargrove (WH), Jo Berndes (JB), Kim Bishop-Laggett (KBL), Akshay Palaniappan, Ben Sussex, Lucca Bilyard (LB), Charlotte Kelly (CK), Lily Ghandi, Caitlin Haberland-Chambers (CHC), Wayne Garner (WG), Luke Collier (LC), Brian Woolcott (BW), Alessandro Onano, Chris Pearce (CP), Howard Clayden (HC), David Lloyd-Williams (DLW), Kathy Hammond (KH), Liz Moss (LM), Magda Charalambous (MC), Sarah Richardson, Andy Richardson (AR), Olivia Richardson, Karen Kelly (KK), Alastair Whatley (AW), Matthew Ramshaw, Charles Hamilton (CH).

Present on Zoom: Sandra Pieper, Simon Parker (SP), Ellie Robinson (ER)

Apologies: Jonny Ray, Ian Mixer, Tim Gingell, Robin Tullo, Paul Creeley, Keith Lewis, Adrian Scott Knight, Jim Mason, John Willmott

(A moment's silence was observed for club members that have passed away over the last 12 months)

RCB opens the AGM by thanking the committee for their work over the last year.

APPROVAL OF 2021/2022 AGM MINUTES:

- WH proposed, seconded by NM.
- No matters arise from these minutes.

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN NM:

- (Attached as Appendix I below).
- **RCB proposed this report, seconded by NP.**

FINANCE REPORT BY TREASURER NP:

- (Attached separately).
- Period: 1st May 2022 - 30th April 2023.
- **INCOME:**
 - Subs:
 - Seniors – growth of 6% when comparing the last two years.
 - Juniors: membership has gone down 14%, income has gone down 6%
 - Sponsorship: about 80% of fundraising was from a few generous donors.
- **SENIOR EXPENDITURE:**
 - Coaching costs has increased by ~£54,000 because we have invested heavily - the club was paying for Southgate Towers as well.
 - Pitch hire: lower because GDN subscription wasn't renewed this year (about £12,000).
 - Invested in indoor tournaments this year.
 - Other expenses are mostly marquee hire.
- **JUNIOR EXPENDITURE:**
 - Lower membership is reflected in lower coaching costs and general expenditure -

- Debtors and accrued income: subscriptions and receipts coming in after end of season – prepayments by juniors.
- Certain sponsors we have 3-year deals with, so this doesn't all show now.
- 246 senior members '22/23 season – income per member = £290
- Coaching cost (with exception of Southgate Towers) - £192/male member, £200/female member.
- ~£1500 from non-playing members – doesn't go into subs, but into fundraising – we could do better with chasing past players for more money (some pay £10 some pay £50, some haven't paid).
- AP asked how much Southgate Towers was costing: NP £36,000/year - discreet fundraising done to make that affordable (raised £40,000 to fund this) - but, of course, the residents "earn" their stay with what they contribute to the club – we will get better this year with ensuring that the residents contribute adequately to the club.
- Formal thanks to HC for his annual auditing – RCB proposed that HC is re-elected in official capacity, seconded by NP – **HC is elected as auditor.**
- **Financial report proposed by RCB, seconded by KH.**

RULE 39 CHANGE:

- Context: to get grants and extra funding from charitable organisations, we need to make this amendment – and it is also a requirement for Club Mark accreditation and England Hockey (EH) Talent Centre status.
- RCB proposes the rule change, seconded by HC. Unanimously supported by the club. **Motion passed.**

ELECTION OF OFFICES:

- **President:** NM proposes RCB, seconded by NP – **RCB voted in.**
- **Re-elect existing VPs:** John Shaw no longer wishes to be VP. RCB proposes re-election of all other existing VPs, seconded by MJ.
- **New VPs:** MJ, Sara Penny, BW, HC, NM. RCB proposed all, seconded by JE.
- **Committee positions:**
 - **Chairman of management committee:** (RCB thanks the committee individually before each election is proposed, and particularly NM, for their work) RCB proposes NM, seconded by DLW. **NM re-elected.**
 - **Honorary secretary:** (RCB thanks AW for his hard work) RCB proposes AW, seconded by WH. **AW re-elected.**
 - **Honorary assistant secretary:** RCB proposes JH, seconded by CHC. **JH re-elected.**
 - **Honorary treasurer:** RCB proposes NP, seconded by AP. **NP re-elected.**
 - **Honorary assistant treasurer:** currently vacant.
 - **Chair of Selection Committee, Men:** RCB proposes LB, seconded by CH. **LB re-elected.**
 - **Chair of Selection Committee, Women:** RCB gives formal thanks to JB as she stands down (and thanks KBL too). RCB proposes KBL, seconded by NP. **KBL is re-elected.**
 - **Honorary fixtures secretary (men and women):** RCB proposes MT, seconded by JE. **MT is re-elected.** But ideally would like someone to step up for the women's side.
 - **Honorary membership secretary:** RCB proposes MJ, seconded by CHC. **MJ is re-elected.**

- **Honorary secretary for past and non-playing members:** RCB proposes KBL, seconded by WH. **KBL is re-elected.**
- **Junior section manager:** RCB proposes LM, seconded by KH. **LM is re-elected.**
- **Assistant junior section manager:** currently vacant.
- **Umpiring secretary:** RCB proposes JE, seconded by HC. **JE is re-elected.**
- Two Ex officio committee members: currently SP and JB. JB is stepping down, so RCB puts forward Mim Sherlock. RCB proposes SP, seconded by WH. **SP is re-elected.** RCB proposes Mim, seconded by MJ. **Mim Sherlock is elected.**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- WH asks which clubs are rivals to us for junior membership: Hamstead and Westminster, Old Loughts, Winchmore Hill, Southgate Adelaide, Hertford.
- KH asks CP if he is/will become a member of the club? CP: does not intend to play, rather to be at as many games as possible, men and women, while coaching M2s – and therefore will contribute to selection, in dialogue with LB and KBL – he clarifies that he reports to the committee and is in constant dialogue with them. CP is Director of Hockey AND Director of Junior Hockey – promotes important message of ONE CLUB.
- LC asks about how we can capitalise on the promotion of the two 1st teams? NM: There has been an increase in donations, with 3-year commitments. We need to be better at fundraising, eg. shirt sponsorship – promotion gives us something to sell to sponsors.
 - NP: there is room for someone to go out and generate a lot of interest in the club, working on a commission-basis for the club – as part of our need for sustainable revenue-making.
 - NM and NP met with EH about a month ago, and we are now more in their mind because we are valuable: we have our own facilities (and now a DOH, and double elite promotion).
 - AP: we could become a more environmentally sustainable club? Which would appeal to sponsors? NM replies: But it's hard to find people to take this on – we need to do everything we do to 100%, so we need to focus our efforts.
 - MJ: we moved to Y1 partly for these reasons of sustainability, and also for promoting our name and financial support, and support in other ways.
- ER would like to talk to NP about supporting him as Assistant Treasurer (she is qualified accountant).
- KK thanks AW and WG for all their hard work this season, particularly supporting the 1st teams.
- LF asks about EH Talent Centre/Club Mark – NM and CP clarify that we want Club Mark accreditation and Talent Centre status to form a closer relationship with EH and get more support from them. We have checkpoints to tick for these.
- LM will be talking to the Trust about timescale of replacing pitches – 12-24 months.

CLOSING REMARKS:

There being no further business the President closed the meeting by thanking all for attending, thanked again the Committee and all those who offer their time & service to the Club and looked forward to an exciting future.

President's Signature (Mr R Beechener):

Date:

APPENDIX I – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BY NEIL MURPHY

SOUTHGATE HOCKEY CLUB

AGM 17 JULY 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Looking back at my report to last year's AGM, we anticipated an exciting season. We welcomed Kwan and Andy to lead the charge with our first teams amid signs that the Southgate Sleeping Giant was about to awaken.

Two brilliant promotions suggest that the season was indeed exciting and a nerve wrecking finale for the W1's was almost too much for me. The result though is that we can look forward to Premier Division hockey for the M1's and thanks to the W1's, the Club has never featured higher in the national hockey pyramid following their all winning, promotion to Division 1. Very many congratulations to Andy, Kwan and their squads, all giving great commitment to Southgate, and I hope ready for the next campaign and challenge.

But Southgate is about very much more than just national league, elite level hockey. We are a members owned and run club; we love the sport and get much out of it, competitiveness, camaraderie and physical and mental exercise. This is as true for those of us playing at levels somewhat below the First Teams as it is for those excellent players. After a season of several promotions, last year all our teams prospered to varying degrees and with some near misses for further promotions.

Southgate is everyone's club, it matters how well, for example, our 4's and 5's do each week, how our Juniors prosper and develop into senior hockey, how visitors enjoy their time at the club, how we celebrate success and adversity. The Committee spends much time considering the whole club, promoting events, adding more and more hockey whether summer leagues, Friday Night Lites, mixed or indoor games, one-offs and touring teams.

Each season we welcome new faces, coaches, players, families, employees. It is all part of the Club's self-renewal and moving forward. We do, as well, always acknowledge those who move on from Southgate. This year has been no different. Most notable amongst the departures after many years' service and significant achievements were John Shaw and Martin Foxall. They have given much to Southgate and we are enormously grateful and wish them well. John, in particular, has marked the end of distinguished career at the club, as player, senior coach, junior coach and our most decorated international player. As Dickie noted in his introduction, the Club has also lost, in the most desperate circumstances Grace O'Malley Kumar, a hugely talented and gifted person. We have also mourned the loss of our friends, Cob and Jim Wallington who gave so much to us and left us far too soon.

The Committee puts in hours of work each week to make hockey happen at Southgate – this often goes unnoticed but without that commitment there would be no umpires, no teams, no teas, no fixtures. I want to thank all my colleagues for their huge efforts this year, made all the busier by various activities from Super Saturday, lots of double headers and club events, signing new kit suppliers, increasing our sponsors and donations and lots of recruitment to make the future self-sustaining. A particular thank you to Jo Berndes who steps down after what was not her first stint of Committee service. Thank you, Jo for all your support. I also want to acknowledge the huge effort

and commitment of Sara Penny who with Liz has run the Centre for over 25 years. Sara left us at Christmas although it has been great to see her back here many times since and still working to help Southgate.

I mentioned at the beginning the plan that has become Project Sleeping Giant. Phase One was about grasping the opportunity within our first teams and raising our playing levels. We launched Phase Two early in 2023, this time to focus on revitalising our Juniors, the middle of the Club and investing heavily in player and coaching development. Key to this has been the appointment of Chris Pearce as Southgate's first Director of Hockey. Chris is working with our coaches and Committee to lead this next stage and we welcome him and wish him every success. Please give him all the support you can.

A key component of this next stage is our School Outreach programme. Chris will lead this alongside our other coaches and senior players. The aim is to provide coaching to state schools in our local community – we need to promote hockey in these schools, and we need children playing team sports throughout the country for lots of well documented reasons. We are determined to do our bit, but we cannot fund this ourselves. Please let me know if you would like to support this project.

With exciting times and new investment, comes the need to sustainably fund these ambitions. We have to live within our means. Our fundraising efforts have increased, and we are relieved that we are making progress. All members can help achieve our ambitions whether by donating funds or contributing their time to our cause. Please help if you can. One easy way is with the recruitment of players – we have capacity for more in both Seniors and Juniors – growing our membership is the most obvious way of sustaining the Club.

Our treasurer, Neil Prior, will present his report shortly. We recorded a small loss for the year with higher coaching costs offsetting a strong increase in revenue. Neil will go into the details, but I would like to highlight that in recent years we have accrued a healthy level of reserves and so have a good platform from which to develop our club.

We announced a couple of weeks ago that membership fees will be increasing fees for next season. Notwithstanding this increase, our subs over the last four years are still below the rate of inflation. This year we have included a new home shirt within our fees to help the transition to Y1, our new kit supplier. Excluding the cost of the shirt means that the Club receives very little increase this year at a time of universally high inflation and increasing costs across the board for running the club - pitches, food, electricity, gas, maintenance, wages etc. These costs will be hard for us to absorb.

We continue to work with the Centre and Trust to improve and develop the site. This year saw the installation of LED floodlighting. To come, in short order, will be new pitch surfaces (not cheap) and we are looking into solar energy and other uses for our land. It has been great to see the increased use of the pavilion on match days and members have turned out in force to support their colleagues and watch hugely entertaining hockey. I hope there will be lots more to come in 23/24.

And finally, a plea to support your Club in any way you can – there are lots of jobs to do and we all benefit that much more if we all contribute. Most importantly though, enjoy playing and watching!

My very best wishes for the season ahead.