



SONNING
HOCKEY CLUB

Sonning Hockey Club AGM
Wednesday 24th May 2017 - 7.30pm at Club House

Minutes

1. Apologies

Sam Terry, Chad Bosman, Maria Willmott, Colm Hanlon, Louise Palk, Adam Pusey, Bryony Pusey, Matt Sellwood, Lorraine Sellwood, Sarah Parry, Kelly Corder, Kristin Cooper, Adam McCarthy, Hugh Digby, Gareth Lappin, Chris Manning, Larissa Gallagher, AJ Churchill, Alison Denham, Anne Oke, Mai-Po Wan, Matt Poulton, Ian Gallagher, Christopher O'Hagan, Neil Pursell, Chris Hinton, Neil Thomson, Lynn Carpentier, David Painter

2. Previous Minutes

Approved

3. Chairman's Report

Another excellent season, with great results on and off the pitch.

We had a new coaching team in the club this year, who have helped us to two league winners this year in the ladies 1s and 3s; congratulations to them! We have also sought sponsorship this year and that has helped the club financially, enabling us to spend more on socials, that have been great events this year.

Three of our members were nominated for Wokingham Sports Council Awards: Amanda McDonald for Unsung Hero, Rose Scales for Volunteer of the Year, and Christy Eyles Goldsmith, who won the Spirit of Sport category. Mai-Po Wan, Wendy Doolin and Katherine Pike all represented Hockey for Heroes as well.

Our juniors had a great year, with five people playing for Berkshire, and Olympic Gold Medalist Shona McCallin visiting training in March this year, which was an excellent event for players and coaches alike.

My thanks to the committee, officers, coaches, umpires, supporters, partners, parents and everyone involved in Sonning Hockey Club.

4. Treasurer's Report

Summary	Income	Expenditure	Excess	
Total Income & Expenditure	£122,926.00	£113,819.00	£9,107.00	Excess
Adult Hockey	£73,409.00	£77,397.00	£3,988.00	Overspend
Colts Hockey	£9,689.00	£7,493.00	£2,196.00	Excess
Other	£39,828.00	£28,930.00	£10,898.00	Excess

In the bank accounts, there is £29,044 in the development fund, with proposals for additional deposits of:

- £1,000 – to cover funds donated to BCSC for pathway lighting
- £2,500 – to safeguard sponsorship funds for future investment in the Junior Section

These proposals were approved.

The current account has a balance of £26,742.

Adult hockey membership is in decline with the same fixed costs to cover. Junior hockey finances have improved due to increases in membership and use of the website to collect fees. Sponsorship added £5,000 and a good festival also added £5,000.

Accounts approved.

Question – Oke – where is the shortfall in funding?

Answer from Gemma, declining membership is the key risk. Collecting match fees isn't really the issue. Should the membership continue to decline, we would look at reducing fixed costs i.e. pitch hire.

Question – Eddie – Is there a possibility of introducing different payment schemes; could membership be more like at a gym?

Answer from Gemma, we will survey the membership over the summer regarding alternative schemes, though we make no commitment to implement any.

5. Club Investments

The committee have been using excess funds (not from the development fund) to invest in improving the club. Making it bigger, and offering a more varied and comprehensive hockey programme for a more diverse membership... across the whole club (e.g. juniors & new players, as well as the more advanced players). This includes:

- ✓ More professional Coaching – two professional coaches for Men's and Ladies sections.
- ✓ Maintained additional pitch space for Ladies training, at the request of members.
- ✓ New club equipment
- ✓ More Umpires to support provision of hockey for additional teams.

- ✓ Further use of the new website with an interactive back office to improve the efficiency in the running of the club. We have seen more improvement this season, and there is more to come...
- ✓ Donation to BCSC for pathway lighting

Once again, we have been very resourceful, and have maintained good cash-flow. However, whilst we have used donated services and deliverables from club members, we cannot rely on these and must invest in our future.

6. Membership Report

	Men		Ladies		Total	
	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16
Senior Members	97	106	68	76	165	182
Student members	2	6	4	3	6	9
Total Adult Members	99	112	72	79	171	191
Junior Members (Under 18)	50	44	47	45	97	89
Total Members	146	156	119	124	268	280

- ✓ Senior membership declining, junior membership increasing
- ✓ 53 senior leavers with 30 new/returning members. Only 3 moved up from the junior section
- ✓ 31 new juniors, with 20 leavers
- ✓ 97% of payments made through the website
- ✓ Membership payment deadline moved to 30th September for existing members. Remains 31st October for new members.

Point from the floor – flyers are available to advertise summer hockey, we, as members, need to get them out into the local community.

7. Website Report

Stats for the season:

- Sonning HC Pitchero ranking: 36th of all hockey clubs
- Registered players: 530 in the membership database (incl. exiles, etc.) Previous year: 452
- Web traffic this season: 4,000 page views/ month from 2,000 visitors.

Developments this year:

- Improved weekly reports - but only as interesting as the reports and data that we add to the site
- Responsive site, improved mobile Apps
- Improved Pitchero App and new Manager app for captains
- Ability to change the look and feel of the site very quickly
- Emails now sent only from the website
- Good activity on match reports from some teams – helps with website traffic and content.

8. Umpire Report

The Season in Numbers:

247 umpiring slots filled by SHC members.

+ 45 appointed umpiring slots filled by SHC members (required to ensure we get appointed umpires for our senior teams).

= 292 umpiring slots fulfilled to enable us all to play hockey!

Umpire Breakdown:

- ✓ 58 SHC members officiated for us (29% of senior membership). Up 8% from last year.
- ✓ 41 from Men's section Increased by 7 from last year.
- ✓ 17 from Ladies' section. Up 10 from last year
- ✓ 6 Umpires of the 58 officiated 10+ games (46% of All Games).

Successes:

- ✓ **5 Sonning HC Members** attended the Level 1 Umpiring Course.
- ✓ **2 Sonning HC Members** passed their Level 1, well done Christy Eyeles Goldsmith and Chris Goslar

Action Plan:

- Continue to **support** those who've attended their Level 1 Umpiring Course until they fully qualify.
- **Recruit more umpires**, especially from the Ladies section to cover either Ladies 4s, 5s, or Vets games.
- Get more SHC members involved with umpiring across the club.
- If all goes well, Chad Bosman will be trained over the summer to become an Umpire Assessor for the club and for Berkshire.

9. Ladies Report

Season Highlights:

- ✓ Ladies 1s & 3s promoted as league winners.
- ✓ A successful EH Vase run for the Ladies 1s to the semi-finals.
- ✓ A record number of ladies volunteering to umpire.
- ✓ **Two pitches for training** this season has worked well and we have also been able to provide some GK training with the team of 6 coaches
- ✓ **Coaching team** integrated well and great communication between coaches and captains.

League Results:

- Ladies 1s & 3s finished as league winners
- Ladies 2s finished 10th, Ladies Vets finished 8th
- Ladies 4s & 5s finished 9th in their divisions

10. Men's Report

Season Highlights:

- Appointment of Simon Briscoe as coach for the Men's 1s and 2s
- Selection carried out solely on Pitchero for the first season
- Men's 7th won their most games yet and have 4 colts playing regularly

League Results:

- Mens 1s: 3rd out of 12
- Mens 2s: 10th out of 12

- Mens 3s: 10th out of 12
- Mens 4s: 11th out of 12 (relegated)
- Mens 5s: 9th out of 10
- Mens 6s: 6th out of 16
- Mens 7s: 15th out of 16

11. Senior Award Winners

Award	Men	Ladies
1s	Ian Finlayson	Chrissi Allen
2s	Luke Wise	Claire Gallimore
3s	Harvey Richardson	Flora Grove-Smith
4s	Matt Hopper & Richard Boyden	Lynn Carpenter
5s	Neil Pipe	Abigail Bryce
6s / Vets	Ben Van de Vaal	Anji Higgins
7s	Dean Lovelace	-
Avis Lincoln Top Goal Scorer	Lewis Cowper	Jordy Swanborough
Sue Hicks Best Goal Keeper	-	Charlotte Norris
Best Newcomer	Jonty Rider	Frankie Knight & Flora Grove-Smith
Most Improved	John Flint	Gemma Waddington & Kelly Hanson
Umpire Award	Jamie Haworth	-
Spirit of Sonning	Chad Bosman	-
Honorary Membership	-	-
Dave Cradock Memorial Award	-	Rose Scales

12. Juniors Report

Number of junior members **increased from 89 to 96**

Summer Hockey - June/July - 6 sessions led by John Shaw, supported by coaches & senior players.

Club Fun Day - September - fun activities & small-sided games helped to introduce new members to the club (joined by some current juniors).

48 mid-week training sessions delivered on Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

Thames Valley Mini Tournaments - monthly October to March - U8s, U10s & U12s entered teams each month.

Wokingham Primary Schools Tournament - November - we **hosted for 5th year running**, involving 9 local schools and supported by EH.

County coaching – 5 members were selected for the **Berkshire Junior Development Centres** Academy stage to play in the inter-county tournaments. 7 of our coaches are also involved in the County Coaching.

Awards Presentation:

- ✓ The evening was extremely well attended.
- ✓ Once again, the awards were preceded by a mixed Parents, Juniors, & Coaches match, which was hugely enjoyed by all.

A huge **thank you** to **everyone** who has given up their time to make the Colts such a success this season.

Note – not trying to turn people into coaches, we just need to get more people to help, so we can get smaller groups and they will get more out of it. If you want to help out, talk to Anne or Ant Oke.

Junior Award Winners

Award	Winner	Runner-up
Under 8s	Alex Hill	Heidi Aston
Under 9s	Anna Burns	Jasmine Curtis
Under 10s	Sophie Orbell	Izzy Barrett
Under 11s	Ellie Smith	Poppy Hattrick
Under 12s	Bo Meadows Tuson	Eddie Burrows
Under 13s	Olivia Barrett	William Green
Under 14s	Jorja McDonald	Zach Bonifacii
Under 15s	Rosa Brannen	Tom Robinson
Under 16s	Tyler Dodsworth	Daisy Haran
Club Junior of the Year	Nathan Munns	-
Player of the Year	Isabella Marino	-
Five Year Awards	Charlie Hankinson, Bo Meadows Tuson, Freya Meadows Tuson, Michael Staig, Oliver Oke	
Junior Coaches Medal	Isabella Marino	
Umpire Level 1 Theory	Mya Coulter, Lauren Mentipty, Rhys Page	
Berkshire Honours	Sean Barker, Honor Hargreaves, Toby Hatfield, Freya Meadows Tuson, Freya Thompson	

Question – Andy Staig – There are many development sides in league 9, do we as a club have space for a development side?

Answer from Oliver Waddington – it's up for consideration.

Question – Are there limitations on DBS checks for badgers sides?

Answer from Ant Oke – No, sensible measures are adhered to.

Point from Alec Pond – Noticed that colts are less willing to go in goal, I feel we should encourage it to show them how to play that position safely.

Response from Ant Oke – Juniors are low on resources to do this kind of thing, please step up.

13. Festival Report

The festival ran from 24th until 26th June with 23 teams, making £4.7K profit. The band, BBQ, weather and support helped to make for a great event.

Thank you to:

Flec & James Parry for website invitations, welcome packs and running the control tent, the set up team – site, pitches, marquee, Clear-up team, BBQ team (incl. preparations), Bar staff, Main Club, Great support, Finance team and all supporters & helpers. Special mentions of thanks to Julian Sewell, David Painter, Maria Willmot and Chris Manning.

14. Election of Officers

Chairperson	Oliver Waddington
President	Eddie Butler
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Gemma Waddington
Assistant Treasurer	Chrissi Allen
Fixtures Secretary - Men	Vacant
Fixtures Secretary - Ladies	Vacant
Equipment Secretary	Committee / Website
Membership Secretary	Sam Terry
Website	Kristin Cooper
Social Secretary	Neil Pursell & Vacant
Umpire Co-ordinator	Chad Bosman
Main Club Rep	Ian Gallagher
Festival Organiser	Festival Sub Team
Trustees (Development Fund)	Chairman / President / Anthony Oke
Honorary Auditor	Burton Charles Accountants

Junior Section Club Captain	Anthony & Anne Oke
Mixed Team Captain	Vacant
Men's Club Captain	Alastair Allan
Men's 1st Captain	Jonathan Sharp
Men's 2nd Captain	Luke Wise
Men's 3rd Captain	Alec Pond
Men's 4th Captain	Ben Berryman
Men's 5th Captain	Ashley Churchill
Men's 6th Captain	Andy Staig
Men's 7th Captain	Vacant
Ladies Club Captain	Claire McEwen & Vacant
Ladies 1st Captain	Mai-Po Wan
Ladies 2nd Captain	Vacant
Ladies 3rd Captain	Jordy Swanborough
Ladies 4th Captain	Louise Palk
Ladies Vets Captain	Sue Hicks
Ladies 5th Captain	Vacant

Andy Staig was nominated for Men's 6s/7s captain (TBC at start of season). Proposed by Eddie Butler and seconded by Alastair Allen.

The nominations were approved unanimously.

15. AOB

Q – membership – can we get a better relationship with Reading University to boost membership?

A – that connection is difficult to achieve given that P&R are incumbents and Reading HC have affiliation with the uni hockey team coaches.

Q – Matt Sloper – Was sponsorship this year a one-off?

A – Formally, yes, though we will try to repeat next season

Q – Jimmy – Coaching for schools, what's happening with that initiative?

A – Chris Hinton and John Shaw are slowly building a network there. Will take time. Oke noted that it needs reliable, committed help for these events.

Q – Could we do a kid's hockey camp?

A – we were approached a few seasons back to run one, but it didn't happen. They are difficult to plan and organise

Meeting closed at 9.05pm