

NORTHANTS COUNTY WOMENS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of AGM, held on 23 May 2016,
at Brixworth Sports & Social Club, at 7.30pm**

Attendees:

NCWHA Committee:

Sarah Blason (President), Angi Harrell (Hon. Secretary), Sandy Boughton (Hon. Treasurer), Val Chamberlain (Hon. League Secretary), Linda Hoggard (Hon. Match Secretary), Nicky Milford (Co-opted member), Claudia Ringrose (Hon. Minutes Secretary).

Representatives from the following affiliated clubs:

Daventry, Earls Barton, Grammarians, Kettering, Olney, Oundle, Rushden & Higham, Towcester, Wellingborough, Wildcatz, Wootton Wanderers.

Other: Adam Powell (Northants School & Youth Association)

Non Attendees: Northampton Saints

1. Apologies for Absence

- Nicky Milford.
- Clubs not in attendance to be fined £30.

2. Introduction

- Sarah Blason (President) welcomed everyone to the meeting, both old faces and new.
- Sarah congratulated Saints 1st for promotion to National League.
- Sarah also congratulated Kettering Vintage (O45s) for reaching the Cup final.
- Northants players continue to star in the England Ladies' Masters.
- Sadly there had been some issues regarding umpiring this season which will be discussed further during the meeting (*see item 12.2*).
- NCWHA have a new website – more about this later too (*see item 10*).

3. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

- These had been circulated and were agreed.

4. Matters arising from previous AGM

- None.
- A copy of the minutes was signed as a true record by Sarah Blason.

5. County Officers Reports

5.1 Hon. Secretary, Angi Harrell

- Angi confirmed her role as Secretary was is to communicate what is happening in the world of hockey and relay anything that affects the ladies in Northamptonshire with regards hockey.
- She asked that clubs inform her of any changes to officers in order to ensure effective communication.
- Angi always passes on information from England Hockey, Midlands Hockey, Northamptonshire Sport and of course NCWHA. She stressed the need for those receiving information from her to pass on to the relevant personnel within their club.
- Looking back on the season Angi pointed out how breakdown in communication on the pitch has had a knock on effect on how the Committee have had to deal with matters. She stressed the need for effective communication between clubs to ensure everyone enjoys the game of hockey.
- Angi thanked the Clubs and Committee for their support.

5.2 Hon. Treasurer, Sandy Boughton

- Income & Expenditure Account for Year End 30 April 2016 were presented by Sandy Boughton.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Affiliations:		Affiliations:	
Midlands	360.00	Midlands	360.00
Northants County	120.00		
Northants League		England Lady Masters x 2	352.00
less postage reimbursement	649.81	Trophies/Engraving 2014/5	273.86
		Photocopying 2014/15	3.85
		Vi Chamberlain Salver and Engraving 2014/15	28.45
Fines	160.00		
Umpiring Course 26/4/15	325.00	Handbooks 2015/16	132.00
		Team Sheets 2015/16	42.00
Reimbursement from Olney HC	185.75	Assistance to Olney HC	185.75
		Website – Club Buzz	120.00
		League Sec. Expenses 2015/16	77.44
Transfer from Business Account	1000.00	Transfer from Business Account	1000.00
Interest	1.75		
TOTAL INCOME	2802.31	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2575.35
Bfwd season 2014/2015	5895.86	Cfwd season 2016/2017	6122.82
	<u>8698.17</u>		<u>8698.17</u>
Balance as at 29.04.2016		Current Account	2581.54
Balance as at 29.04.2016		Business Account	<u>3541.28</u>
			6122.82
Plus monies not banked			<u>0.00</u>
			6122.82
Less cheques not cashed			0.00

To be carried forward to season 2016/17		6122.82	=====

- There were no questions from the floor regarding the accounts.
- Treasurer from Wildcatz stated her appreciation for the breakdown of affiliation fees sent to clubs at the beginning of the year. Sandy thanked her and confirmed that this will be done again in August 2016.
- Sandy thanked those Clubs who had paid their affiliation fees by BACS transfer. Clubs are still able to pay by cheque should they wish to do so.
- Refunds for postage of team sheets will be offset against next season's affiliation fees.
Action: S Boughton to offset postage costs against affiliation fees.
Action: Club representatives to report back to their club treasurers.
- No questions asked from members.
- Sarah Blason thanked Sandy for continuing to keep a tight rein on the purse strings.
- Sarah Blason encouraged Clubs to contact the NCWHA should they require financial assistance, stating how much is required and their reasons for the assistance. She added that the Committee would look at each request and consider what support could be given, as with Olney this season.

5.3 Hon League Secretary, Val Chamberlain

Season's Review:

- Val presented final League tables, which had already been circulated, to clubs

NORTHANTS COUNTY LADIES HOCKEY LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals		Diff.	Points
					For	Against		
DAVENTRY	20	16	3	1	94	22	72	51
WELLINGBOROUGH 1	20	15	2	3	67	20	47	47
OUNDLE 1	20	14	2	4	55	21	34	44
SAINTS 2	20	12	3	5	64	27	37	39
KETTERING 2	20	12	2	6	63	52	11	38
TOWCESTER 2	20	9	0	11	38	37	1	27
WILDCATZ	20	7	2	11	48	49	-1	23
WOOTTON WANDERERS 1	20	6	4	10	33	45	-12	22
GRAMMARIANS	20	5	1	14	28	77	-49	16
OLNEY	20	1	1	18	15	86	-71	1*
TOWCESTER 3	20	2	2	16	13	82	-69	-1**

* Deducted 3 points (Rule 12.6)

** Deducted 9 points (Rule 12.6)

DIVISION 2 FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals		Diff.	Points
					For	Against		
EARLS BARTON	16	16	0	0	86	7	79	48
SAINTS 3	16	12	2	2	64	14	50	38
KETTERING 3	16	9	1	6	28	28	0	28
WELLINGBOROUGH 2	16	5	5	6	19	24	-5	17*
SAINTS 4	16	5	4	7	29	38	-9	16*
RUSHDEN & HIGHAM	16	4	1	11	22	42	-20	13
OUNDLE 2	16	6	1	9	25	51	-26	13***
KETTERING 4	16	4	4	8	13	33	-20	12 * **
WOOTTON WANDERERS 2	16	2	0	14	15	64	-49	3 *

* Deducted 3 points (Rule 12.6)

** Deducted 1 point (Rule 11.13)

*** Deducted 6 points (Rule 12.6)

- Val informed the Clubs that the season was not without its issues – decisions were made to resolve them, maybe not the right ones but she felt that a line had to be drawn and the uncertainty brought to a conclusion.
- 1 game was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch before the Christmas break and 2 games postponed in the New Year due to frozen pitches. There were 9 conceded games the majority coming at the back end of the season.
- Val confirmed that generally speaking team sheets arrived on time, but was still nudging a few teams towards the end of the week. A reminder when posting them to use a first class stamp; these costs are re-imbursed. There is no need to delay sending team sheets via mobile or scanner. Please be mindful of poor quality photo files and ensure players' names are printed. A reminder to Towcester, Kettering Saints and Wellingborough to send a copy of their team sheet too, for Midlands or National League, in order to keep track of starring.

Next season:

- Daventry finished top of Division 1 with Wellingborough 1 in second place. Daventry have declined promotion to Midlands Feeder, but unlike last season, the Midlands have offered the opportunity to the second placed team. Wellingborough 1 have opted to play Midlands hockey.
- Promotion & relegation – Earls Barton and Saints 3 being promoted from Div 2 to Div 1. Olney and Towcester 3 finished in the relegation places of Div 1, but sadly Olney have decided to withdraw from the League.
- As a result there will be 10 teams in Division 1 (18 games) and 8 in Division 2 (only 14 games) – consideration was given to teams playing each other 3 times but 21 games was too many. Perhaps teams could play some friendlies. On the plus side, due to less games fixtures won't need to start as early. Val confirmed also that with Easter being later she has managed to leave the start and end dates of school terms free for both divisions.
- Rule changes - There is an amendment proposed for next season – (*see item 9 below*).
- Registration Forms – reminder: please return before the start of the season and keep a copy of the forms for your own record. Once the season gets underway teams must register new players on the day of a match on the back of the team sheet. N.B. If a player transfers during the summer the transfer process must be completed.
- Envelopes available for each Club this evening containing League dates and fixtures for next season and contacts. The contacts information and forms to be returned by 15 July 2016 in order to complete handbooks for next season. Please could they be posted (self-addressed envelope provided) rather than scanned as they can be difficult to read. It is vital that if there are any changes to contact details after the handbooks have been distributed please inform Val so she can then forward the updated details to all Clubs. Please indicate on the form if for confidentiality reasons anyone's details should not be posted on the website or in the handbook.
- Stationery packs will be distributed by hand by the end of August, early in September. Teams to advise Val if they require pre-addressed return envelopes as many clubs are now scanning team sheets.

Other:

- No further questions raised from the floor.
- Sarah Blason thanked Val and highlighted how fortunate we are as a County to have such a hardworking, patient and tremendously organised League Secretary. Without Val the League would simple not run as smoothly. Clubs also took the opportunity to thank Val.

Presentation of Shields and Trophies:

Division 1	–	Champions	=	Daventry		
		Runners up	=	Wellingborough 1		
		Top Scorers	=	1 st Julie Allington	(Daventry)	45
				2 nd Jane Valentino	(Wellingborough 1)	18
				3 rd Emily Plant	(Wellingborough 1)	16
				Kirsty Smith	(Kettering 2)	16
Division 2	–	Champions	=	Earls Barton		
		Runners up	=	Saints 3		
		Top Scorers	=	1 st Helen Jones	(Earls Barton)	15
				2 nd Danielle Neighbour	(Earls Barton)	13
				3 rd Betsy Bates	(Earls Barton)	12
				Becky Berrett	(Earls Barton)	12
				Rosie Williamson	(Saints 3)	12

5.4 Hon. Match Secretary, Linda Hoggard

- Linda confirmed that All England rules still remain for competitions - any player playing in any England Competition, of any age group, would be ineligible to play for the HasBeans in the England Hockey Over 40s Women's Masters Cup. Linda was hoping that England Hockey will allow more flexibility in the coming season and thus revive the HasBeans again.
- On a more positive note, the County has once again had a fantastic representation of players from Northants Clubs being selected for both Midlands and England Senior hockey at various age groups.

Midlands Representation:

Ella Bevan (captain), Lucy-Ann Chacksfield (vice captain), , Emma Cooper, Caroline Whitehouse. Regional finals to be played later in the year.

England Representation:

Over 40s – Ella Bevan (captain), Lucy-Ann Chacksfield (vice captain).

They travelled to Canberra (Australia) for a tournament, playing 6 games in 10 days. They finished second to the home nation.

Over 50s – Mel Linnell

Home nations tournament to be played at the end of June.

Linda congratulated all the above and wished them well in their forthcoming matches. It's fantastic news that so many of our 'County oldies' are still playing at such a high level.

Special Award

- The NCWHA have decided to award Kettering's Vintage (O45s) with a **Team Recognition Award** in reaching the final of the England Hockey Masters O45 Knockout Tournament, played at the Lee Valley Stadium. They narrowly missed out in the final with the final score 2-1 to Cambridge City (last season's runners up). Sarah congratulated Kettering and all those clubs for playing in all these competitions.

6. Adoption of Reports and Balance Sheet

Move to adopt by Zoe Arnold (Rushden & Higham) and seconded by Sarah Cross (Earls Barton).

7. Election of Officers

- No new nominations have been received for any positions. Existing Officers prepared to stand again. Nominated by Jo Osborn (Earls Barton), seconded by Shez Coe (Kettering). The following officers were therefore all elected unanimously and unopposed for the 2016/2017 season:

President	- Sarah Blason
Hon. Treasurer	- Sandy Boughton
Hon. Secretary	- Angi Harrell
Hon. League Secretary	- Val Chamberlain
Hon. Match Secretary	- Linda Griffiths
Hon. Minutes Secretary	- Claudia Ringrose
Co-Opted Member	- Nicky Milford

- Sarah confirmed that there is still a gap on the Committee with respect to liaison with umpires. She encouraged members to come forward to help in this role.

8. Affiliation Fees

- Sandy Boughton confirmed NCWHA fees for 2016/2017 would remain unchanged at £50 per Club. However, due to the surplus in the current account the Committee would like to reduce that figure to a nominal £5 per Club (last season this was £10). As the money held in the account technically belongs to the Clubs, the Clubs would need to approve this. Clubs unanimously agreed to this and therefore approved. Thus:

NCWHA affiliation fee - £50 discounted by £45 = £5 per Club
 NCWHA league fee - Division 1 - £35 per team
 Division 2 - £25 per team due to fewer teams and matches

- Midlands affiliation – last season was £30 per club. Each county association is responsible for collecting this from the Clubs and forwarding on to the Midlands. However, if this amount is increased then the NCWHA will pay the difference for the clubs.
- England Hockey affiliation - not known at this stage. However, England Hockey will request this payment to be paid direct to them by Clubs.
- Sandy will send a letter out to all Clubs during August requesting fees, including Midlands fee.

9. League Rules

The NCWHA proposed a rule change. The rule was circulated to clubs on the night with the change proposed highlighted in red. Val Chamberlain explained reason behind each change. No proposed rules changes were received by Clubs.

Rules Concerning Players:

Rule	Current Rule	Amended Rule/Reason	Comments from Clubs	Result
11.10	<p>...Once a player has played seven (7) games for a higher team she automatically becomes a starred member of that team ...</p> <p>At the start of the New Year ...Once they have played five (5) games for the higher team in the New Year the player automatically becomes a starred member of that team ...</p>	<p>...Once a player has played an accumulated six (6) games for higher teams she becomes ineligible to play for a lower team ...</p> <p>At the start of the New Year ...Once a player has played an accumulated six (6) games for higher teams she becomes ineligible to play for a lower team ...</p> <p><i>Easter 2017 not so early so league games do not need to start early September; also re-wording of rule for clarification.</i></p>	None.	Carried

10. NCWHA Website

- Sarah was pleased to announce that the new website for NCWHA is now live. The host is clubbuzz which is also used by the Midlands Women's Hockey League and other clubs within hockey. The website will have all details regarding the league – fixtures, rules, downloads, photo gallery; there are also links to various England Hockey policies. The link is <http://ncwha.clubbuzz.co.uk/>
- Angi will upload results onto fixtures live.

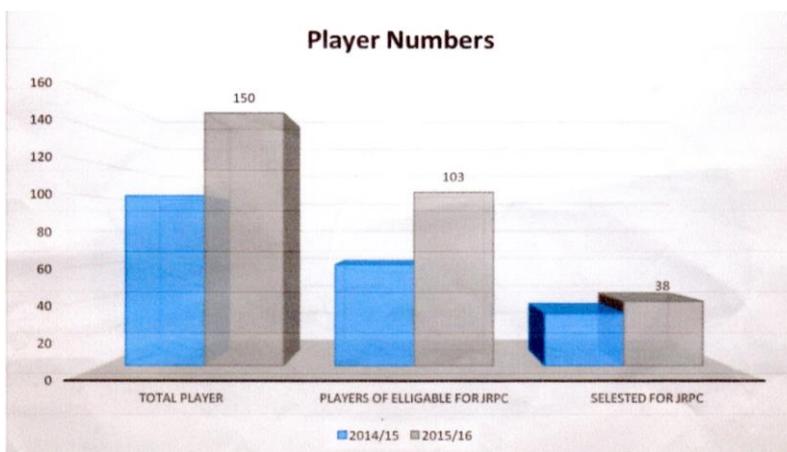
11. Vi Chamberlain “Hockey Achievement Award”

Angi Harrell is this year’s recipient as nominated by Earls Barton Hockey Club. Sarah Blason read a resume regarding Angi. Angi began her hockey career in the small welsh town of Camarthen. She joined the police cadets at the age of 16 and went on to the Thames Valley Police force, for whom she also played hockey. Within the County she has played for Olney and Earls Barton and has used the same hockey stick throughout her playing days. At Earls Barton she has held the positions of Secretary, Fixture Secretary and Tour Organiser! Angi’s ambition has always been to run the marathon, in aid of HOPE MS Therapy Centre, Neyland, Pembrokeshire, upon retirement as a Police Officer. Achieving this unfortunately came with injury, forcing Angi (and her stick) to retire from playing hockey. However, all is not lost as she has joined the NCWHA Committee as Hon. Secretary.

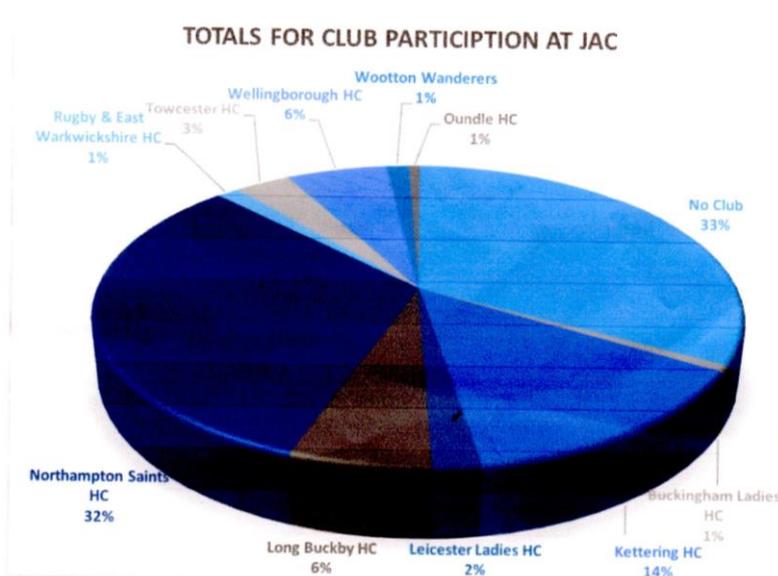
12. AOB

12.1 Northamptonshire Schools & Youth Association

- Adam Powell, Chair of NSYA was delighted with the performance and progression of the juniors within Northamptonshire and presented the attached figures of junior county players in JDC and JAC.



- Adam was pleased to report that this season player numbers have increased, thus resulting in more players achieving JAC status and one girl making it all the way to national level.
- The boys and girls U18 teams have improved last season’s performance (U16 level) by achieving 2nd place (silver medal).



12.2 Umpiring

- Sarah Blason confirmed that there had been issues concerning a lack of qualified umpires. The Hockey Umpiring Group (HUG) was established some years ago to arrange courses and assessment of umpires, guidance and support. Sadly when the Northamptonshire Hockey Association disbanded this group ceased. The NCWHA over the last few seasons has organised or supported umpire forums or organised umpire courses. However, the ongoing support is still lacking.
- Following some issues this season, Sarah was keen for clubs to air any issues or concerns and find a way forward.
- Leanne Telford, Towcester, confirmed concerns she had raised during the season as to whether rules were being applied consistently in relation to umpires and matches.
- Val Chamberlain explained that there had been two incidents this season. At one Division 1 game an umpire failed to turn up and the away team invoked the rule whereby a team must provide a Level 1 umpire within 15 minute from the start time. Both teams gave a different version of events. Whilst at another match the game went ahead with only one umpire. The committee were not aware of this until some time later. The committee asked that both these matches should be replayed. Teams had not been happy with this decision.
- Discussions took place with regards to a team not having a Level 1 umpire for a Division 1 game, safety of the game, insurance, etc. After a healthy debate clubs agreed, providing BOTH teams and umpire are in agreement, to the following:
 1. Try to find another L1 umpire at the venue, or
 2. Contact another L1 umpire to see if they can get to the venue
 3. Use a L1 umpire (not full qualified i.e. assessed)
 4. Anyone else.
 5. Use 1 umpire only.

The game must begin no later than 15 minutes from the start time.
Teams to inform Hon. League Secretary.

For Division 2, where Level 1 umpire is not required, then point 4 and 5 shall apply. Again, BOTH teams and umpire must be in agreement. Teams to inform Hon. League Secretary.

- Teams felt that the majority of players just wanted to play and enjoy the game of hockey but appreciated the need for safety.
- Sarah Blason confirmed that it was important to try and revive the HUG group in some way and had spoken with various people to get them on board. She urged for people to come forward and help. Anyone interested to see Sarah at the end of the meeting or contact her.

12.3 Meeting closed

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm.