

**Attendees (13):** **David Wood** (VP), **James Marks** (3<sup>rd</sup> team Captain), **Tom Young** (2<sup>nd</sup> Team captain, Secretary), **David Rees** (Junior coach, Goosedale Executive, 4<sup>th</sup> team), **Greg Cunningham** (Pitch technical liaison officer & Goosedale Executive, 3<sup>rd</sup> team), **Giles Hulme** (Goosedale Treasurer, Club Umpire, VP), **Gary Noseley** (Club Umpire, 5/4s team), **Rick Hillier** (Club Umpire, 3<sup>rd</sup> team), **Donald MacDuff** (5<sup>th</sup> team Captain, VP), **Henry Appleby** (4<sup>th</sup> team), **Callum Willard** (2<sup>nd</sup> team), **William Johnson** (Club Captain, Goosedale joint Secretary, 5<sup>th</sup> team), **Phil Young** (Club President, Vets' Captain, Umpire Secretary, VP).

**Apologies (8):** **Rob Brittan** (member of 1s), **Peter Quinn** (VP), **James Anderson** (Goosedale Trustee, VP), **Graham Bard** (Chair of Selection), **Chris Bradshaw** (Fixture Secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> team), **Mark Fisher** (2<sup>nd</sup> team), **Clive Morris** (Director of Hockey, 1/4s team), **Mark White** (4<sup>th</sup> team Captain).

	Action	Responsible	Timeframe
1	Appointment of 1 <sup>st</sup> team captain and off pitch administrator(s)	CM / WJ / GB	By end of August
2	Improvement in 1 <sup>st</sup> team hospitality and behaviour ratings	1 <sup>st</sup> team	Season
3	Appointment of 4s captain	WJ / GB	By end of August
4	Selection of squads (especially 4 <sup>th</sup> team seniors)	Selection committee	August
5	Agreement of aims, objectives and funding for director of hockey	CM / WJ / PY / GB / SL	June
6	Finding new club umpires for September training course	WJ via club captains	July
7	Review of communication channels with club members	Executive	September
8	Filing of vacancies on executive & Goosedale executive (secretary, DBS welfare officers)	WJ & executive	ASAP
9	Volunteers for cleaning the club house and other jobs	WJ & executive	By September
10	New account forms and procedures for captains	SV	By September
11	Recommendation of new kit suppliers and process	JM & GN	July / August
12	Communication of club / pitch status and agreement on Strategy	WJ & Executive & club members	December / January
13	Improvement in collection of subs and match tax	Club members	Season
14	Improved notification of availability and team selection	Team members & captains	Season
15	Renewal of team and clubhouse medical kits	WJ	By September

Phil Young (PY) chaired the meeting with William Johnson (WJ) taking the minutes.

**Agenda:** (1) previous minutes, (2) reports from club officials, (3) appointment of club officials, (4) NHC & Goosedale jobs, (5) the financial accounts of the club, (6) the kit suppliers, (7) NHC status and strategy, (8) AOB

**1. Minutes of the previous AGM.**

Any matters arising from the previous minutes were covered by the agenda. The meeting approved the minutes.

**2. Reports from club officials.**

**a. Club Captain:** WJ felt that the club's performance on the pitch had improved. A Wednesday Rush hockey session had been run over the summer, which had then been replaced by Tuesday training in August. The benefit of this had been seen in the standard of play produced in the lower sides. This in turn had strengthened all the sides. There had been a drop in attendance at training after the Christmas break and this, as well as availability (especially in the 1s) had impacted what had been an extremely good first half of the season. But despite this all the sides had ended in the top part of their league. The 2s won their league and had gained promotion, while the 4s, 3s and until the latter stages the 1s had all been in contention for promotion. Indeed, the 5s had also put in an extremely good performance and playing wise were probably the most improved team in the club. However, the Ben Rhydding Cup was awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> team in light of them winning promotion and their league. WJ once again raised his concern that communication within the club was not good enough. He did not feel that club members were aware of the clubs relationship with Goosedale, the jobs that needed doing or the critical decisions facing the club in relationship to the need to replace the pitch, *[these matters were discussed later in the meeting]*. WJ reiterated his belief that the club needed people freed up from the day to day running of the club so that they could focus on the strategy and future of the club. This was of utmost urgency. WJ concluded by thanking the executive and all the club members who had helped over the year.

**b. 1<sup>st</sup> team:** Owing to reorganisation of the 1s at the start of the season, no one had taken up the first team captaincy. Clive Morris (CM), the coach and director of hockey, had carried out the tasks. The AGM felt that this had been more than he should have had to do and was not a successful state for the 1s. Indeed, the drop in availability after Christmas had not only affected the 1s promotion campaign, but caused selection problems further down the club. It was felt that the 1s generally needed to commit themselves to the running of their side and, consequently, generate a better team spirit within NHC. The team spirit in the 2s to 5s had been

extremely good this year and had shown a continual improvement over the last 2 to 3 years. The 1s needed to be a team that other members of the club wanted the opportunity to play for. WJ also felt that too much energy and concentration was being spent on arguing with umpires and the opposition. It would be better if that energy was challenged into staying on the pitch and winning the game. Even when the umpire seemed to be biased, arguing was not going to improve, let alone change things to NHS's advantage. Playing and winning was the only response worth pursuing. Giles Hulme (GH) pointed out that despite attempts to work on looking after the umpires the 1s had once again come in the bottom 3 or 4 in the leagues hospitality and behaviour tables.

- c. **2<sup>nd</sup> team:** Tom Young (TY) reported that it had been an enjoyable season in which the team had played well and enjoyed their hockey, [P16, W13, L3]. They had deserved their promotion and were looking forward to challenging for promotion in their new league.
- d. **3<sup>rd</sup> team:** James Marks (JM) said that the team had played some excellent hockey over the season. A couple of forced team changes in the latter part of the season had, unfortunately, affected their promotion challenge. But they were they hoping to push for it this season.
- e. **4<sup>th</sup> team:** Mark White (MW) had sent in his report - The team had had a successful season in respect of consistent numbers and key players. But the team was always weaker on away games, which lost us some easy wins. Overall, the team should have finished second not third. But unless there is another NN 5s quality team next season, the team should be pushing for promotion, (Players player - Finley Cragain; Most improved - Ted Cragain; Top scorer - Henry Appleby; Captains award - Jacob Weston).
- f. **5<sup>th</sup> team:** Donald MacDuff told the AGM that the team had played some of the best hockey he had seen from the 5s, [a point agreed on by the club umpires attending the meeting]. The team ended up 6<sup>th</sup> in the league, but this could have been 5<sup>th</sup> if the decision had not been to opt out of the last match of the season in order to protect the youngsters against a rather over competitive NN 5s team. WJ thanked DM for all the work he had put in as 5<sup>th</sup> team captain.
- g. **Vets:** PY reported that there had been two O50s cup games, the first a good win over West Bridgeford. There had also been a competitive 'friendly' with a Southampton Hockey Club touring side. The club had combined with veterans from Boots HC. NHC had organised the O50s, while Boots were managing the O40s. Unfortunately, the latter team did not play, despite enough players. PY said that next year NHC would ensure that both teams played in their respective cup competitions.
- h. **Umpire Secretary:** PY felt the club provided some of the best and fairest club umpires. But there was always a need for more. The date of the next course is in September and potential attendees will be sought from the club membership. PY had found it useful to involve at least one of the first team members in umpiring a game so that they could appreciate the

challenges and difficulties facing an umpire. This is something that the AGM felt was worthwhile pursuing.

- i. **Chair of Selectors:** GB had sent in a report - In general our season has been good from a Selection perspective. We've only had a couple of weeks where we've had to double up with permission from the league or cancel a fixture. This is an improvement on last season.

My main gripe is with late communication from captains. When I was 3s captain I found it very easy to send a load of messages out (now made even easier though WhatsApp groups). In some cases, maybe it's just that I didn't receive info from captains until late in the week, but I do know that some players didn't receive contact until Wednesday in some cases and this makes it very hard to coordinate all the teams if we haven't got a full picture. **Next season I would like preliminary squads form captains by Tuesday (i.e. before training).** In the second half of last season I did not know who the final 1s line-ups were, unless they were short.

We had a few selection issues where we tried to drop people and it was not received well. Maybe we didn't communicate it well and perhaps we should discuss a policy/procedure for how we approve it and communicate it. But then also, players need to accept that if they're dropped it has been discussed by the committee and agreed, and cannot be influenced.

Clive volunteered to manage the 1s as well as coaching, as we didn't have an obvious choice to replace Chris Goodchild, after he graciously agreed to step down to 2s (along with Rich Alban). Whilst very grateful for Clive doing this, it was clear that he already does a lot for the club so should not have to take on this burden as well. So for next season it is critical that we find ourselves a 1s captain - even if it is to manage the off-pitch side of texting players, and getting a team out. Along with the match day admin, cash collection and paperwork.

We also agreed within the committee that we will be setting up the 4s as a junior development squad with our brightest 10 or so juniors bolstered with some of our "older", more experienced players who would most likely be playing at a level below their capability, but the idea being they will help to bring on the future of NHC. At the moment we've hit a stumbling block on both senior players and a captain, *[this was discussed later in the meeting]*.

- j. **Juniors:** Dave Rees (DR) reported that the junior section had been going very well, with attendance usually rising above 20. The session was currently being run on a Wednesday night, alongside Rush hockey. When training starts it will move to a Tuesday night, with CM leading the sessions, and DR looking after the admin. It had already been stated in the last executive meeting that we would look to have some badger matches

next season. *[additional note: CM has already asked that NHC junior members are encouraged next year to attend the relevant JAC sessions that he holds as part of his HA county role].*

- k. **Welfare officer:** WJ told the AGM that James England had provided invaluable legal advice / support over the last year. However, he felt there was an urgent need to have at least a couple of people accredited with the rights to carry out DBS check on the relevant officials of the club. Greg Cunningham (GC) said that this should be possible through the HA – WJ will check via the HA office on the Loughborough campus. *[Additional note: at least one parent had offered to help in this area – including ensuring that there was adequate accident / medical kits – WJ to follow up].*

### 3. Appointment of club officials

The following posts were discussed – otherwise the existing posts remained unchanged. The posts marked by \*\*\*\* indicate a vacancy. WJ has produced a document outlining the NHC & Goosedale jobs. It will be circulated to the membership.

- a. **Club captaincy:** WJ told the AGM that he had hoped to stand down from the club captaincy and take up another executive post, but would serve one more year as club captain.
- b. **Chair of Selectors:** likewise Graham Bard had considered giving up his post due to having to split his work between Nottingham and the Far East. However, he will stay on for another year, but will rely on the captains and players making their availability known as soon as possible.
- c. **Secretary \*\*\*\*:** this post is still vacant. TY is acting as the contact point for the league and HA, while WJ is acting as secretary for the meetings
- d. **1s captain \*\*\*\*:** the AGM again stressed that it is important that the 1s provide people to fulfil the captain tasks, both on and off the field. CM has been put down as the contact point for the league handbook.
- e. **4s captain \*\*\*\*:** WJ has a couple of people to still approach and in the meantime has been put down as the contact point for the league handbook. Likewise the senior players that will play with the youngsters of the 4s need to be agreed on. Gary Noseley (GN) agreed that he would make himself available for away games as well next season. He was also discussing the availability of at least one other senior player. WJ will continue discussing things with GN and Sven Lagerberg (SL), who played for the 4s last season.
- f. **5s captain:** Mark White has agreed to take over the role. Hopefully he will manage to give himself more game time in the coming season.
- g. **Welfare Officer \*\*\*\*:** JE will continue to provide legal advice, but at least a couple of active welfare (&health and safety) officers need recruiting. WJ to ask for volunteers & arrange DBS certification.

- h. **Volunteers \*\*\*\***: there are a number of jobs that need doing; such as cleaning the clubhouse, emptying pitch bins; ensuring rubbish is cleared from off the pitch area. A lot of the jobs need every member to do their bit, rather than leaving it to someone else. WJ had approached someone with the idea of paying them to do the bulk of the work cleaning the clubhouse – club members would also need to help out.
- i. **Goosedale**: GH & GC were all retiring from the Goosedale executive. This meant that NHC needed to find someone to take over the role of Goosedale Treasurer, as well as another executive member.

#### 4. Financial accounts of the club.

SL had provided the treasurer's report. These had been reviewed and approved by the previous treasurer (DM). SL highlighted a number of points:

- a. There were still some match taxes and subscriptions either outstanding or in need of explaining (e.g., offsetting against expenditure). PY was currently chasing these. **A new form will be provided for captains to fill in next year and a much tighter regime will be put in place. Players not paying within an agreed time will not be selected.** Also, any sponsorship of players will be more transparent in order to make the task easier for the treasurer.
- b. The pitch repair costs continue to cause concern and are the reason why there was a deficit this year. This situation is unlikely to resolve itself as the pitch is showing continued wear and tear – it is three years since it was deep cleaned; this was expected to extend its life by five years or so.
- c. SL also felt that the playing expenses needed reviewing. He felt the club should ensure it was getting good value for its expenditure. The AGM agreed with this and also stressed that sponsorship should cover all or as much of this expenditure as possible.

GH & WJ pointed out that the club needed to continue working towards a financial state where the running of NHC was not subsidised by the pitch revenue. While the club still had money aside to contribute to the pitch renewal, it was not growing because of the increased cost of pitch repairs.

The accounts were approved by the AGM.

#### 5. Kit suppliers:

GH retired as kit manager at the start of last season, but he had continued to oversee it. He has now put forward a number of options, including the one proposed by CM. The AGM asked JM and GN to look at the options and make a recommendation. *[WJ to pass the options to them]*. The aim is to try and minimise, or remove the need for any kit to be held by the club.

## **6. NHC status and strategy:**

It has become clear that not many of the club members are aware of the role of Goosedale. WJ outlined that the ground had been left in trust to the hockey and cricket clubs. Both clubs have two trustees who are responsible for the management of the trust. The Goosedale executive should be made up of NHC and cricket club members and is responsible for the day to day running of things on behalf of the trustees. Both clubs pay an amount into Goosedale as a form of 'rent'. The football club pay a yearly rent as tenants, but have no representation on the Goosedale executive. The payments are calculated using a formulae relating to usage (i.e., cost of grass cutting mainly falls to the cricket and football clubs; NHC pays more for electricity and heating). The hockey pitch is 'owned' and is the responsibility of NHC. NHC were granted permission in the form of a long term lease of the land to build it on. The revenue from renting the hockey pitch out goes into the NHC accounts (it should be building up the pitch renewal funds). Goosedale is run / maintained by volunteers. Over the decades each club had had periods where they did the bulk of the work. Currently the cricket club was providing the real effort and leadership. WJ had made it a priority to get NHC involved again and GH had done an excellent job as treasurer. However, the cricket club were still doing things without consultation – but then again NHC were not providing any real physical support. The state of the clubhouse was a concern, especially the showers and changing room. But this emphasised the different requirements for the two clubs. If either club ceased to play at Goosedale, then their share of the ground / clubhouse passed to the other club. If both clubs folded, then it was believed that the ground was to be passed to the local council for sport usage. It was noted that the transfer of hockey from grass to all weather pitches had increased the difference between what each club wanted from the facilities. It was also noted that the football club had contributed to Goosedale through the partial tarmacking of the car park. The age of the leading cricket club volunteers (grass cutters, pitch markers, etc) was noted and it was unclear where the next generation was likely to come from. The AGM decided that NHC should take a leaf out of the cricketers' book and initiate an improvement program for the showers.

The situation of Goosedale needs to be carefully considered when reviewing the question of pitch renewal. The AGM discussed the viability of renewing the pitch and were informed by GH that what was needed had been explained by Gedling Borough Council and the HA – such as engaging with the local community (coaching at schools) and increased pitch usage; but the club had failed to deliver on any of this. Consequently he felt that the option of getting funding to replace the pitch was zero unless the club started raising its profile and delivering on some of the activities specified by Gedling and the HA, (note: both organisations were very keen to see a successful NHC bid – but it was up to the club). If the pitch is not renewed, then the club would have to consider other options. PY stated that the pitch was not dangerous and there were much worse pitches –

although GH said that the pitch was gaining a bad reputation within the east midlands. GH said that the club needed to agree its strategy by Christmas and to then start delivering it. WJ stated that there was very little time left for making decisions. David Wood (DW) commented that the club need to take a pragmatic view of the options and then decide and act. He felt that it would be good to seek advice from other prominent VPs. WJ agreed to work with the executive in order to communicate the situation to the club members and seek a decision on the strategy and the necessary actions by the Christmas break in the league season.

## 7. AOB

- a. CM had requested confirmation of what the club required of him next season. WJ received the AGM's approval for him to gather a sub-group to meet with CM and discuss and agree the aims and objectives for the Director of Hockey for the 2017-18 season. This would include what funds were available for 1s team recruitment, make up and objectives for the 1s team, caching and training initiatives. WJ would ask PY, GB and SL to join him for the meeting. PY felt the meeting needed to take place in the next two weeks.
- b. A number of names were mentioned as potential VPs, but it was decided to wait until next years' AGM before considering them.
- c. The AGM extended its congratulation to Jan Ahmed who had been appointed as an England selector for the O60s. He was had also been selected for the midlands O60s. Likewise, the AGM congratulated CM on his selection for the Midlands O50s team.
- d. WJ asked for the club to be more efficient on the completion of player transfers next season. It would appear that we needed to be more proactive and to push things through, rather than rely on the player wishing to join us.
- e. DR asked about club membership for women in light of the intention to raising a ladies side, or mixed side over the next two seasons. WJ said that there was social membership available, but the intention was to incorporate women into the club so that full playing membership and voting rights would be available to any females joining and representing NHC.

WJ thanked the attendees for making the effort to come and contribute to the AGM. The attendees and people who had sent apologies represented the core of people who took an active interest in the club. The challenge for all of them was to get the rest of the club involved.

PY closed the meeting.