

NORTHANTS COUNTY WOMENS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of AGM, held on 22 May 2017,
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), Chris Rowland-Jones (Co-opted member), Claudia Ringrose (Hon. Minutes Secretary).

Representatives from the following affiliated clubs:

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

1. Apologies for Absence

- Nicky Milford, Linda Hoggard
- Oundle Hockey Club (£30 for non-attendance)

2. Introduction

- Sarah Blason (President) welcomed everyone to the meeting, both old faces and new.
- Sarah congratulated all clubs for their performances and co-operation throughout the season.
- Northants players continue to star in the England Ladies' Masters.

3. Minutes of the 2016 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 that the website was being visited frequently, more so at the weekend. Could Clubs ensure that they submit to her time and venue of matches so she can update Fixtures Live.
- Emails from England Hockey, Midlands Hockey, Northamptonshire Sport and NCWHA are circulated to clubs.
- She asked that clubs inform her of any changes to officers in order to ensure effective communication.
- No questions raised from members.

5.2 Hon. Treasurer, Sandy Boughton

- Income & Expenditure Account for Year End 30 April 2017 were presented by Sandy Boughton.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Affiliations:		Affiliations:	
Midlands	330.00	Midlands	330.00
Northants County	55.00		
Northants League		AGM 2016	
less postage reimbursement	526.15	Trophies/Engraving	376.14
		Photocopying	3.45
		Vi Chamberlain Award	21.95
Fines	70.00	Handbooks, registration forms and team sheets	121.50
		Assistance/Donation to Daventry HC	200.00
		Pitch Hire	50.00
		Website:	
		Research & Development	230.00
		Support for one year	60.00
		Domain retention	120.00
		League Sec. Expenses	71.31
Interest	1.09		
TOTAL INCOME	982.24	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1584.35
Bfwd season 2015/2016	6122.82	Cfwd season 2017/2018	5520.71
	<u>7105.06</u>		<u>7105.06</u>
Balance as at 30.04.2017		Current Account	2049.65
Balance as at 05.04.2017		Business Account	<u>3542.37</u>
			5592.02
Plus monies not banked			<u>0.00</u>
			5592.02
Less cheques not cashed			71.31

To be carried forward to season 2017/18		5520.71	=====

- Daventry had applied for financial support (£200) for Goal Keeping equipment. This had been reviewed and approved by the Committee. Sandy reiterated that Clubs could request financial assistance to the Committee.
- The carry forward was affected by the development of the website.
- 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.
- 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 Daventry 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	18	18	0	0	114	8	106	54
SAINTS 2	18	13	2	3	56	17	39	41
WILDCATZ	18	12	1	5	58	36	22	37
OUNDLE 1	18	9	2	7	57	33	24	29
KETTERING 2	18	9	2	7	46	39	7	29
WOOTTON WANDERERS 1	18	9	2	7	32	32	0	29
TOWCESTER 2	18	5	3	10	33	57	-24	17*
EARLS BARTON	18	5	0	13	21	55	-34	15
SAINTS 3	18	2	3	13	8	63	-55	9
GRAMMARIANS	18	0	1	17	9	94	-85	-2**

* Deducted 1 point (Rule 11.10)

** Deducted 3 points (Rule 12.6)

DIVISION 2 FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals		Diff.	Points
					For	Against		
KETTERING 3	12	9	1	2	46	13	33	28
WOOTTON WANDERERS 2	12	9	0	3	41	15	26	27
RUSHDEN & HIGHAM	12	8	2	2	29	9	20	26
TOWCESTER 3	12	5	3	4	27	18	9	18
SAINTS 4	12	4	2	6	11	25	-14	14
OUNDLE 2	12	3	0	9	21	44	-23	6*
KETTERING 4	12	0	0	12	4	55	-51	-3*

* Deducted 3 points (Rule 12.6)

- Val confirmed a total of 6 games conceded, majority by Wellingborough 2 in the first half of the season. Both Club and Committee agreed at Christmas break that they should withdraw from the league. Div 2 tables recalculated. Only 4 games postponed due to weather.
- 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, in order to keep track of starring.

Results and next season's fixtures:

- Daventry finished top of Division 1 with Saints 2 in second place. Daventry have declined promotion to Midlands Feeder, but second placed team, Saints 2, are keen to play Midlands hockey, we wish them well. Wellingborough 1 had found that league difficult this season are return to County Division 1.

- Promotion & relegation – Kettering 3 and Wootton Wanderers 2 are promoted from Div 2 to Div 1. Saints 3 and Grammarians finished in the relegation places of Div 1 and will play in Div 2 next season.
- As a result, there will be 10 teams in Division 1 (18 games)
- Division 2 is more complicated. With only 7 teams, clubs were asked if they would prefer 12 games or 18 games (playing each other 3 times). The majority opted for 18 games. Grammarians felt they could not fulfil 18 league fixtures and would therefore have to withdraw; leaving just 6 teams. It was agreed that Grammarians would retain the fixtures but they would be played as friendlies. Wootton expressed an interest in entering a 3rd team, without the constraints of league rules. They too were offered the same terms as Grammarians and play all their games as friendlies.

Therefore, there will be 8 teams in Division 2 – 6 teams playing 15 league games and 6 friendlies.

Grammarians and Wootton 3 will potentially play 21 friendlies. There will be no paperwork involved with the friendlies, no points at stake and no league restrictions. If they are short of players they can use other players who would normally be ineligible under league rules. **Both teams have been asked to give sufficient notice to opponents if a friendly has to be cancelled so that pitch costs are not incurred.**

The Committee have taken this decision in order to deep more people involved playing hockey.

- Rule changes – There are no rule changes proposed by clubs or Committee
- Registration Forms – reminder: please return, by post, 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 2017 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 at the beginning of September. Teams to advise Val if they require pre-addressed return envelopes as many clubs are now scanning team sheets.
- Everything in the handbook and all the necessary paperwork can be found on the website, thanks to Angi, as the intention is to phase the handbooks out.

Other:

- No questions raised from members.
- Sarah Blason confirmed that some Clubs had benefitted from the “Back to Hockey” programme.
- Sarah thanked Val for her hard work and the Clubs for their efficiency and support this season.

Presentation of Shields and Trophies:

Division 1	–	Champions	=	Daventry	
		Runners up	=	Saints 2	
		Top Scorers	=	1 st Julie Allington	(Daventry) 45
				2 nd Roni Blyth	(Daventry) 19
				3 rd Jade Meaking	(Wildcatz) 18

Division 2	–	Champions	=	Kettering 3	
		Runners up	=	Wootton Wanderers 2	
		Top Scorers	=	1 st Ellie Peachment	(Kettering 3) 13
				2 nd Caitlin Curren	(Kettering 3) 8
				Amber Thorpe	(Wootton Wanderers 2)

5.4 Hon. Match Secretary, Linda Hoggard (*read by Angi Harrell in her absence*)

- 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:

Over 40s – Emma Cooper, Caroline McCabe, Andrea Mason (Saints)

Over 45s – Mandy Starsmore, Linzi Webster (both Kettering)

Cheryl McCulloch has been appointed joint Manager for both squads.

Over 50s – Sue Willers, Mel Linnell (both Towcester)

Over 60s – Jan Randle, Mary Schwier, Sherry Shawcross (all Kettering)

England Representation:

Over 40s –Lucy-Ann Chacksfield

Over 50s – Sue Willers, Mel Linnell

All are due to travel to Dublin on 23-25 June for the Home Nations Tournament then to Tilburg on 11-19 August for the Euros.

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. Linda confirmed that trials are open to all club players, secretaries to look out for details via email.

6. Adoption of Reports and Balance Sheet

Move to adopt by Shez Coe (Kettering) and seconded by Mel Linnell (Towcester).

7. Election of Officers

- No new nominations have been received for any positions. Existing Officers prepared to stand again. Nominated by Mel Linnell (Towcester), seconded by Julie Allington (Daventry). The following officers were therefore all elected unanimously and unopposed for the 2017/2018 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	-	Chris Rowland-Jones

- Sarah confirmed appointment of Chris Rowland-Jones on the Committee as Umpire Development Liaison (*see item 9 below*).

8. Affiliation Fees

- Sandy Boughton confirmed NCWHA fees for 2017/2018 would remain unchanged at £50 per Club. However, due to the surplus in the current account the Committee would again reduce that figure to a nominal £5 per Club. 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 league 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.
- 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. Umpiring

- Sarah Blason explained that she had approached Chris Rowland-Jones to act as Umpire Development Liaison during the season. Both she and Chris had attended an Umpires Forum headed by David Elworthy (Officiating Officer, England Hockey) and Andrew Dale (Relationship Manager, England Hockey).

Chris explained that as county the ladies no longer to have a voice regarding umpire development. Level 1 courses have been held over the last few years, but the final assessment has rarely been completed, thus compounding the problem of a lack of L1 umpires within our leagues. Both David and Andy were unable to give reasons why. It was also agreed that umpires should be made to feel worthy and valued. Chris will now liaise with David and Andy to iron out these issues and keep clubs informed of progress.

- Chris also explained that the Committee were looking to use some of the carry forwards fund for umpire training, etc.
 - Daventry raised the point how umpiring was varied within Division 1, with some umpires handing our cards more frequently than other. Other clubs agreed that there was a difference in umpiring.
 - Wootton raised the point as to whether clubs could be given headsets. Some umpires present were for the use of headsets, others against.
 - Saints raised the point whether some money would be better used for forum/seminar.
- Chris confirmed that she would look into the use of headsets, costs, etc and keep clubs informed of progress.

10. Vi Chamberlain “Hockey Achievement Award”

Nicky Milford is this year’s recipient as nominated by NCWHA for services to hockey. Sarah Blason read a resume regarding Nicky. Nicky has worked tirelessly across many clubs (Saints, Lions, Wootton) promoting the game, encouraging adults and juniors to participate in the sport of hockey. She also coaches, umpires, etc with great enthusiasm. She has also served on club and county committees. Nicky is now working at England Hockey. Congratulations to Nicky. Unfortunately, Nicky was on duty for England Hockey. Tony Brennan received the award on her behalf.

11. AOB

11.1 Meeting closed

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.