

# **NORTHANTS COUNTY WOMENS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of AGM, held on 14 May 2018,  
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), Claudia Ringrose (Hon. Minutes Secretary).

*Representatives from the following affiliated clubs:*

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

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

- Linda Hoggard (Hon. Match Secretary)

## **2. Introduction**

- Sarah Blason (President) welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Sarah congratulated all clubs for their performances and co-operation throughout the season.
- Northants players continue to star in the England Ladies' Masters.
- Congratulations to Kettering Hockey Club for completing their Clubmark this year. They have also been shortlisted for the Notts Sport Club of the Year and will be in attendance at the England Hockey Awards this coming Saturday. Good luck to Kettering.

## **3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

- These had been circulated and were agreed.

### **Matters arising from previous AGM**

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

## **4. County Officers Reports**

### **5.1 Hon. Secretary, Angi Harrell**

- Angi queried how often Clubs used the website. Clubs confirmed they do use it. Any Clubs wishing to post any news of the website should contact Angi.
- Angi requested that Clubs continue 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 5 April 2018 were presented by Sandy Boughton.

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Affiliations:</b>		<b>Affiliations:</b>	
Midlands	300.00	Midlands	300.00
Northants County	50.00		
Northants League		<b>AGM 2017</b>	
less postage reimbursement	481.40	Trophies/Engraving	298.86
		Photocopying	3.80
		Vi Chamberlain Shield & engraving	32.98
Fines	70.00	Handbooks, registration forms and team sheets	136.00
		England Lady Masters assistance Sue Willers	100.00
		Wildcatz assistance goalkeeper kit	112.00
		Clubbuzz Domain and Support	125.00
		Umpire Mic Systems	239.95
Interest	0.91	League Sec. Expenses	69.75
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>902.31</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1418.34</b>
Bfwd season 2017/2018	<b>5520.71</b>	Cfwd season 2018/2019	<b>5004.68</b>
	<u><b>6423.02</b></u>		<u><b>6423.02</b></u>
Balance as at 05.04.2018		Current Account	1531.15
Balance as at 05.04.2018		Business Account	<u>3543.28</u>
			5074.43
Plus monies not banked			<u>0.00</u>
Less cheques not cashed			69.75
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<b>To be carried forward to season 2018/19</b>		<b>5004.68</b>	<b>=====</b>

- England Lady Masters – GK applied for support with travelling expenses with oversized baggage for a number of flights. The Committee reviewed and agreed to donate £100.
- Wildcatz had applied for financial support (£112) for Goal Keeping equipment. This had been reviewed and approved by the Committee.
- Sandy reiterated that Clubs could request financial assistance to the Committee 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.
- The website domain and support is an ongoing cost.
- Following last year’s AGM a set of Umpire Mic Systems have been purchased for Kettering Hockey Club to use and to provide training for umpires within the county (*see item 8*).
- 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.

### 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		
KETTERING 2	18	16	1	1	79	34	45	49
DAVENTRY	18	16	0	2	125	22	103	48
WILDCATZ	17	11	3	3	52	38	14	36
OUNDLE 1	17	8	4	5	58	40	18	28
WOOTTON WANDERERS 1	18	8	3	7	39	44	-5	27
TOWCESTER 2	18	7	3	8	44	45	-1	24
WELLINGBOROUGH	18	5	3	10	40	65	-25	18
EARLS BARTON	18	3	4	11	24	44	-20	13
KETTERING 3	18	4	0	14	19	46	-27	12
WOOTTON WANDERERS 2	18	0	1	17	6	108	-102	-3* **

\* 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		
SAINTS 3	15	15	0	0	104	2	102	45
RUSHDEN & HIGHAM	15	6	4	5	36	32	4	22
TOWCESTER 3	15	8	1	6	29	29	0	22**
KETTERING 4	15	5	3	7	21	42	-21	18
OUNDLE 2	15	4	1	10	27	48	-21	10**
SAINTS 4	15	2	1	12	8	72	-64	7

\*\* Deducted 3 points (Rule 12.6)

- Val confirmed a total of 3 games conceded, many games postponed due to weather. Val thanked all Clubs' fixture secretaries for getting all but one game re-scheduled. The one game not played was proving difficult to rearrange; it was agreed, in the end, by both teams and the Committee not to go ahead as it had no impact on promotion or relegation.
- The majority of friendlies in Division 2 went ahead, with both teams who opted to play only friendlies enjoying the games without constraints of league rules.
- Val confirmed that generally speaking team sheets arrived on time, but was still nudging a few teams towards the end of the week. Please remember if you have any new registrations signed on the reverse of the team sheet to send that reverse side too. A reminder to Saints, Towcester and Kettering to send a copy of their Midlands team sheet too, in order to keep track of starring.

#### Results and next season's fixtures:

- Kettering 2 finished top of Division 1 with Daventry in second place. Kettering 2 will take their place in the Midlands Feeder. We welcome back Saints 2 into the County League. We wish Kettering well in the Feeder League where Saints 2 have struggled at times but have enjoyed the experience.

- Promotion & relegation – Wootton Wanderers 2 and Kettering 3 finished in the relegation places of Division 1. In Division 2, Saints 3 ran away with first place with Rushden & Higham finishing runners up (and requesting not to be promoted to Division 1). Bearing this in mind, along with the points tally of the final league tables and Kettering’s preference, the Committee have invoked Rule 5.4 and decided to only promote 1 team from Division 2.

In future, to remove the uncertainty of promotion and relegation a play-off could take place at the end of the season between the team finishing bottom but one in Division 1 against the team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 2 (*see item 11*).

- As a result, there will be 10 teams in Division 1 (18 games)
- Division 2 will remain at 8 teams - Grammarians have decided to re-enter the league, whilst Wootton Wanderers 3 have opted to continue to play friendlies. Grammarians do have concerns providing an umpire but hopefully clubs could come to their aid. Each team will play each other 3 times, total of 18 league games and 3 friendlies.
- Rule changes – There are proposals and discussions regarding rules (*see item 11*).
- 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 2018 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.
- 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.
- Stationery packs will be distributed by hand at the beginning of September. Pre-addressed return envelopes will no longer be provided as Clubs are now scanning team sheets.

#### **Other:**

- No questions raised from members.
- Sarah Blason confirmed that some Clubs are continuing to benefit from the “Back to Hockey” programme and wished all Clubs the best for next season.
- 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	=	Kettering 2		
		Runners up	=	Daventry		
		Top Scorers	=	1 <sup>st</sup> Julie Allington	(Daventry)	55
				2 <sup>nd</sup> Kirsty Smith	(Kettering 2)	24
				3 <sup>rd</sup> Roni Blyth	(Daventry)	19
Division 2	–	Champions	=	Saints 3		
		Runners up	=	Rushden & Higham		

Top Scorers =	1 <sup>st</sup> Becky O'Connor	(Saints 3)	26
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Katrina Wilson	(Saints 3)	16
	Elise Abrams	(Rushden & Higham)	

#### 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** – Cath Irvin (Kettering)  
Ella Bevan is to coach the squad.  
Tournament is 19/20 May at Cannock HC

**Over 50s** – Sue Willers, Mel Linnell (both Towcester),  
Mandy Starsmore-Young and Linzi Webster (both Kettering)  
Tournament was 12/13 May at Olton HC. Finished 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Over 55s - Julia Telford (Kettering)  
Cheryl McCulloch is to manage the squad  
Tournament is 19/20 May at Cannock HC

Over 60s – Jan Randle, Sherry Shawcross (both Kettering)  
Tournament was 12/13 May at Basingstoke HC. No details so far.

##### **England Representation:**

**Over 50s** – Sue Willers, Mel Linnell

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.

Sarah Blason also congratulated all players concerned.

#### 5. Adoption of Reports and Balance Sheet

Move to adopt by Mel Linnell (Towcester) and seconded by Amy March (Kettering).

#### 6. Election of Officers

- No new nominations have been received for any positions. Existing Officers prepared to stand again, with the exception of Chris Rowland-Jones who has stepped down as Umpire Development Liaison. Nominated by Julie Allington (Daventry) and seconded by Emma Gillett (Wootton Wanderers). The following officers were therefore all elected unanimously and unopposed for the 2018/2019 season:

President	-	Sarah Blason
Hon. Treasurer	-	Sandy Boughton
Hon. Secretary	-	Angi Harrell
Hon. League Secretary	-	Val Chamberlain
Hon. Match Secretary	-	Linda Hoggard
Hon. Minutes Secretary	-	Claudia Ringrose
Umpire Development Liaison	-	<i>vacant</i>

## 7. Affiliation Fees

- Sandy Boughton confirmed NCWHA fees for 2018/2019 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 - £35 per team

- 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.  
**Action: Sandy Boughton.**

## 8. Umpiring

- Sarah Blason congratulated Jaime Cox of Kettering Hockey Club on his appointment as a National League Umpire. Jaime will be advising the NCWHA on umpiring matters, assisting with assessment of umpires, offering training on the use of Umpire Mic Headsets and organising an Umpires Forum in September. Details of all of this to follow.  
**Action: NCWHA**
- Angi Harrell has already emailed Clubs to submit names of any umpires waiting to be assessed. Unfortunately, only one suitable candidate was put forward. Sarah again urged Clubs to submit this information urgently.  
**Action: All Clubs**

## 9. General Data Protection Regulations

- Sarah Blason confirmed that all relevant documentation relating to GDPR from England Hockey has been forwarded on to Clubs  
This can also be found on EH website and NCWHA website. Clubs must adhere to these procedures. NCWHA is GDPR compliant.
- Emma Gillett of Wootton Wanderers Hockey Club has been working on this and is happy to talk any Club through these statutory requirements should they need any help.

## 10. Vi Chamberlain “Hockey Achievement Award”

Louise Storey of Kettering Hockey Club is this year’s recipient as nominated by KHC. Louise has been a member for over 20 years and for several years has managed the junior section. This section has flourished with her input and numbers has increased massively. She has also encouraged many parents to get involved and who now volunteer regularly. She has also been Vice Treasurer, played for all the ladies teams and a member of the Veterans squad that made it to the cup final at Lee Valley last year.

## 11. AOB

### 11.1 League Rules

**Northamptonshire Representative to Midlands Feeder League** - Proposal by Towcester Hockey Club. In the event of the team winning Div 1 declining the opportunity to be promoted into the Midlands Feeder League then that team should only play friendlies the following season. After much discussion it was felt that this could have a negative impact on the game and teams could end up throwing games (which could affect promotion and relegation). Vote: In favour = 4; Against = 14; Abstentions = 2

A counter proposal was put forward by a member of Kettering Hockey Club - In the event of the team winning Div 1 declining the opportunity to be promoted into the Midlands Feeder League then that team should start on minus points the following season. Vote: In favour = 2; Against = 11; Abstentions = 7

There was a strong feeling behind these proposals namely the attitude of Daventry Hockey Club. A number of Clubs voiced their feelings that over the years they have been too strong opponents and playing against them has not been enjoyable, particularly their zealous celebrations against lesser opponents when scoring goals. Whilst Daventry felt that they were being targeted, they were able to explain their reasons for declining promotion over the years; they simply don't have a large enough squad or players available to travel around the Midlands. However, Julie Allington acknowledged comments made by Clubs on the night and assured everyone that she would take these comments back to Daventry Hockey Club.

Emma Gillett of Wootton suggested that perhaps a 'fair play award' could be introduced. Teams and umpires could comment and feedback; the results could then be compiled and a winner announced at the AGM. All Clubs were in favour of this. Sarah Blason felt this was a positive way forward. The Committee will discuss the process during the closed season and inform Clubs.

**Action: NCWHA**

**Promotion & Relegation from Division 1** – The Committee were also aware of teams in Division 2 not wishing to take up their place in Division 1. Rushden & Higham explained that having finished in second place they had often played with 10 or even 9 players and so therefore Division 1 would be impossible to compete or enjoy playing in. Outcome following discussion amongst the Clubs it was agreed that the team finishing bottom of Division 1 should be relegated and the team top of Division 2 should be promoted. In the event of the second from bottom in Division 1 and the second from top in Division 2 both wishing to play in Division 1 then they will be offered a play off for a place in Division 1. Vote: In favour = 17; Against = 1; Abstentions = 0

The NCWHA will oversee all the arrangements, set aside a date on the fixture calendar, neutral venue and umpires (costs for these to be paid by NCWHA).

League Committee will re-write Rule 5.4 to reflect this.

**Action: NCWHA**

## **11.2 Meeting closed**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9:00 pm.