

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12th January 2023 at Cotswold Area Civil Service Sports Association

1 Attendance

Present: Ian Harvey (Chair), Shaun Cullimore (Treasurer), Lisa Lundie (Welfare Officer & Schools Coordinator), Andrew Hopcraft (Secretary), Graham Wayland (Communications Officer), Helen Jefferies (Youth Coordinator), James Doughty (Youth Coordinator), Bob Moxom (Vice Chair), Lindsay Ferguson (Men's Masters Coordinator) and Sally Privett (West Masters representative and Women's Masters Coordinator).

Apologies: None.

Not Present: None.

2 Minutes from the Last Meeting – 22nd September 2022

The Minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 22nd September were approved.

3 Matters arising

Actions from the previous committee meetings were reviewed and updated as follows:

Number	Owner	Action	Update
0922/1	Shaun & Andrew	Add minutes from the last meeting to the website	Complete.
0922/2	Lisa	Send survey to schools to look at why some schools are not entering	To be done.
0922/3	Lisa	Forecast for schools for next year	To be done.
0922/4	Ian & Andrew	Write an email to ask for Masters hockey support and email to the clubs	No longer needed.
0922/5	Graham	Draft a job description for the Communications Officer for discussion and agreement	In progress
0922/6	Ian	Location for next committee meeting to be booked	Complete.

4 Chairman's Business

England Hockey (EH) National Working Standing Committee Group meetings continue, but with nothing significant to report. Membership list for the counties is still outstanding, but nearing completion. This impacts Gloucestershire because Avon has now been reconstituted as a county, so South Gloucestershire teams have now moved to Avon; however, the boundary is not yet clear.

5 Finance

Schools and clubs competition funding policy. The committee debated this at length and agreed that GHA would like to support schools and junior clubs at regional and national competitions where appropriate, with decisions made on a case-by-case basis by a sub-committee, with appeals to the full committee.

This sub-committee is to be at least 2 of: Treasurer, Schools Coordinator and Secretary. This sub-committee is authorised to review each case, make a decision and respond to the school or junior club.

This approach will be reviewed in 12 months time or earlier if required.

Funding request from Lansdown for support for their U16 girls team in the national clubs indoor finals is to be reviewed by the sub-committee.

Funding request from KLB for support for their U16 and U18 boys teams in the national schools indoor finals is to be reviewed by the sub-committee.

Finance report. Income £26k, expenses £18k, so surplus of £8k at this point in the year, with more costs to come. We expect that we will breakeven this season, but Shaun will check, with information provided on anticipated future costs by James. Funds in the bank are £54k today.

6 Reports

Secretary

A "Parents' and carers guide" has been written at draft 3 and is in review. This is to be complete for the U12 training in April.

Junior Hockey

Schools Entries are mixed, but broadly healthy and the tournaments have gone well.

Clubs Festivals – this season we have had 196 teams for U8, U10 and U12 which is very healthy. Girls' participation is increasing, but boys is declining. In2Hockey entries are due next week. Wooton and Cheltenham club teams have done well in the EH nationals. U18s have been relatively quiet. Indoor has seen some confusion, but with teams from Lansdown and Cheltenham girls qualifying for the West. West will run a pool of school and junior club indoor competitions next year, with the winners of the schools pools qualifying for the finals, organised by West Hockey.

County hockey Kings pitches working well for junior county training and matches. Of the 250 players who came to trials, 143 players (57%) are now registered at AC and 42 (17%) at DC level. Income of around £18k expected. The kit has been rebranded and successfully produced through the Stick Club. AC squads are having indoor training sessions, but no matches are planned yet. TAs now up and running at Stourport, Bath and Oxford, but do not appear to be at PC level at this stage.

England Hockey Junior Country working group meetings continue – counties approach junior hockey quite differently. The new player pathway system is in build, but it is progressing slowly – hopefully it will be ready for next season.

Games have already taken place between each county age group from North and South. Our opponents in the north games are Herefordshire, Wiltshire and Avon. Our U14 Girls, U14 Boys and U15 Girls went to Bristol on 13th November and took place in the first round of the County Competitions. Our U15/16/17 Boys and U16/17 Girls played games in Gloucester against these same counties, whilst the U13 Girls and Boys played some friendly matches against Wiltshire.

Round 2 of the competition will take place on 12th Feb, and run with the same format, although the U13s will most likely be playing against Somerset and Wiltshire this time - times and venues to be confirmed.

After round 2 there will be a finals day in Somerset whereby the winners and runners up from the North will play the equivalent from the South and the 3rd and 4th

counties from North and South will play each other. The overall winners from the boys and girls groups will each receive pin badges as a memento.

Nominations for U12 county will be asked for in the next 2 weeks, with sessions in April and May.

Development of hockey in state schools (EH initiative) We have not yet been able to find someone to take on this initiative despite talking to 2 promising people who declined to help.

Masters Hockey

Womens All the England women's squads won gold medals at the Masters World Cups held in Nottingham (August) and Cape Town (October 2022). Trials are now well underway for all age groups for the 2023 season and an over 70's category has also been added, so the ladies will be playing in 5 year age groups from O35s to O70s. This summer the European Masters Tournament will take place in Valencia.

Sally attended the last West Managers Meeting on Zoom on 28th Nov and reported the following: The West Masters Committee (which covers men & women) has a new Chair - Debs Gemmell. The Administrator and Communications Officer roles are still to be filled on the Committee (details on their website). Assessment dates/trials for the Women's West Squads, O35s to O65s, are 29th Jan, 19th Feb and 19th Mar at Kings College, Taunton. Following the results of the survey sent by the West to all clubs regarding interest in playing Masters Hockey, they are looking to run an O40s Men and O40s Women Masters Club Competition plus an O35 and O50 Mixed Knockout Cup and Plate Competition with finals being played at Kings College. Information regarding applying to attend the Assessment Days and the Club Competitions was sent to all clubs before Christmas.

In Gloucestershire, many women of over 35 are still playing league hockey for their clubs on a Saturday. However, in order to try to offer more Master's players the opportunity to play hockey together, Sally has spoken to Lucie Archer, who runs Hockey Fever, about the possibility of her starting a Masters section to provide friendly hockey opportunities. Sally will follow this up with Lucie.

Lansdown HC are currently trying to get Masters Hockey for Women off the ground and have sessions booked on 3 dates – Jan, Feb and March.

Mens Currently only over 60's hockey, with 2 teams and includes players from Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. Looking for someone to take over from Lindsay and Nigel for next season.

Expansion of Masters Hockey in Gloucestershire (EH initiative) We have not yet found a suitable person for this work.

Welfare

We received one complaint in mid-September 2022 regarding the communication of an injury to a child sustained during a GHA run session. Following a lengthy period of emails, meetings and follow-ups, a number of points were raised. It was clear that there was great scope to interpret the EH policy in a number of ways and so it took some time to move forwards and get to a resolution. Actions have now been taken, including:

- There were no welfare contact details on our website - this has been amended.
- Our complaints procedure has been updated to include contact details.
- A new GHA injury management approach has been provided to coaches for feedback.

7 AOB

Sponsorship Could there be any interest in sponsorship and if so what might we do with the additional funds?

Hartpury relationship There has been very limited progress, but this will be reinvigorated.

Communications Officer role Graham has done some work to define the role, but this now requires further thought, so Graham will send questions round to the committee for feedback. In the short term, Graham will make introductions to local media.

8 Actions

Number	Owner	Action	Update
0123/1	JD	Investigate goalkeeper training for all county goalkeepers	

0123/2	JD	Provide the Treasurer with the player pathway financial forecast	
0123/3	SC	Provide a financial estimate for the year end financial position	
0123/4	IH	Find a replacement for Lisa for the Welfare Officer role	
0123/5	ALL	Have a think about potential sponsors and what we might do with any sponsorship money for the next meeting	
0123/6	GW / AH	Send round communications officer role questions for feedback	
0123/7	GW	Make introductions to local media	
0123/8	BM	Ask Simon Mason if he would do a county GK training session	
0123/9	IH	Location for next committee meeting to be booked	

9 Date of next meeting

Thursday 30th March at 7:30pm in Cheltenham (face to face, location TBC).

The AGM will be held on Thursday 18th May at 7:30pm (online)

Andrew Hopcraft
GHA Secretary