

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 23rd November 2023 Via Zoom

1 Attendance

Present: Ian Harvey (Chair), Andrew Hopcraft (Secretary), Shaun Cullimore (Treasurer), James Doughty (Youth Coordinator), Helen Jefferies (Youth Coordinator), Lisa Lundie (Schools Coordinator), Sally Privett (West Masters representative and Women's Masters Coordinator), Liz Waltham (Welfare Officer).

Apologies: Graham Wayland (Communications Officer).

Not Present: Steve Foster (Men's Masters Coordinator), Bob Moxom (Vice Chair).

2 Minutes from the Last Meeting – 21st September 2023

The Minutes from the last Committee Meeting were **unanimously approved**.

3 Matters arising

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

| Number | Owner | Action | Update |
|--------|--------------------------|---|--|
| 0123/7 | Graham | Make introductions to local media | Not yet started |
| 0123/8 | Bob | Ask Simon Mason if he would do a county GK training session | Bob has asked him, but SM has not yet committed. |
| 0323/4 | Shaun | Concerted effort to release the funds in the National Savings account (£1,151) | Form now received and to be filled in. |
| 0323/7 | Liz | Could we do more to support and encourage indoor hockey | Underway, but pitch space hard. GHA squads train weekly. |
| 0623/4 | James | Collate feedback from the committee on the 5 year vision for GHA and put into a framework for discussion at the September meeting | No further progress |
| 0623/7 | James then Ian as needed | For schools and clubs competitions, ask Dean Close and Cheltenham Ladies College to provide pitches for free on behalf of the community for tournaments | Need to chase both. |

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|--------|--------|--|--|
| 0623/8 | Graham | Find the right POC at each club for communication and introduce himself | Not yet started |
| 0623/9 | All | Let Ian know of anyone who may be keen to lead initiatives with state schools and masters | No responses have been received |
| 0923/1 | Shaun | Could we split out the costs as per James and Helen's report regarding timing for DC in the accounts | Closed |
| 0923/2 | Shaun | Agree or not the removal of direct debit option from ClubBuzz | Complete |
| 0923/3 | James | Any proposals for coach development to be sent to Andrew | Complete |
| 0923/4 | James | Talk to Hockey Fever to see if they would be interested in running school and or club competitions | Yes, they are interested, meeting next month. Looking at scheduling software |
| 0923/5 | Graham | Think about how we might go about finding a successor to Ian | Not yet started |

4 Chair's business

No significant news from the England Hockey National Working Group or from West Hockey.

5 Finance

National Savings and Investment account signatories proposed to be the GHA Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. NS&I form to be completed with those names. This was **unanimously approved** by the committee.

At the moment Shaun and Ian are the only live signatories to the GHA current account. It was proposed that the GHA Secretary is added to the signatories list, former committee members be removed and that a debit card should be obtained. These were all **unanimously approved** by the committee.

6 Reports

Secretary Parents and Carers guide has been updated and is to be sent to the next U12 cohort once they are selected in April 2024. There have been 4 applicants for funding, 3 of which have been approved and one of which is in progress.

Schools Crypt School have contacted us for support to get started with hockey at their school. We have provided some information and are working on a more comprehensive response. It might be that RO coaching could help support their coaching requirements.

First school's tournaments are underway and no issues are expected. Finances to be reviewed next week.

A successor for Lisa is still needed, but there have been no volunteers so far.

Clubs The Festivals have continued this season with all the various categories of U8s Mixed, U10 Girls and Boys, U12 Girls and Boys and U12 A Teams Girls and Boys. Unfortunately, numbers have been a little down on last year across all gender and age groups with about a 15% reduction; the only exception being the A Teams events where numbers are actually slightly up. Westbury have not been to so many events and Marlborough have stopped coming. On a more positive note, the smaller clubs have been active and looking at how to cooperate to send combined teams. In2Hockey competition invitations for entries will be sent out to GHA Clubs at the beginning of December at £40 per entrant in an attempt to cover costs.

There have been 2 health and safety incidents, both at Dean Close; these were both handled very well and improvement actions have been taken as a result.

The West programme of Clubs and Schools competitions has gone ahead largely as planned although some reorganisation was needed for one particular Club travel anomaly. However, the number of unfulfilled fixtures continues to be a concern and there are discussions around what sanctions might be applied, if any.

Junior County Hockey

All the squads are in place and matches have already been taking place successfully. Kit has been produced and delivered very effectively by the Stick Club. Strength and Conditioning for the U13s and U14s has gone well too. There is no finals day planned for this season. Next season it is expected that the 8 counties in the West will have a league rather than the North / South divide we have now.

It is expected that JCH will generate a surplus of about £1,000 this season.

Jerry Tranter has agreed to lead the umpiring coaching programme, funding for which was approved by the Funding Sub-Committee.

Masters hockey

Womens There are still a large number of masters' age women who are playing regular league hockey. However, it appears that there is an ongoing increase in activity outside of this with more clubs getting involved in social hockey matches, which in some cases are pulling in people who are not regular players. Some clubs continue to play friendly masters matches on an ad hoc basis – eg Lansdown,

Stroud, Gloucester and Newent. Outside of this Hockey Fever is also offering Walking hockey and Re-start hockey. No county appears to have a role model system for Masters County hockey.

Trials are underway for West and International teams with the county well represented. Gloucester, Lansdown, Newent (& Bretforton) have entered teams into the England Hockey Championships this season.

Mens Following trials at Cirencester, the county have 2 over 60's teams up and running, with players from 12 different clubs across the county. Several of this group have represented West Masters or England / Wales at the recent European championships.

Welfare

No issues reported beyond those already reported at Dean Close (see above).

Communications

Graham, Ian and Andrew to have a conversation about what communication tasks could be done as a priority by the Communications Officer. The introductory letter to Clubs and Schools is ready to be issued and a GHA Twitter account has now been created and is ready to be used.

7 GHA strategy

No further update.

8 AOB

Indoor There is interest but we need to find suitable pitches – the most suitable in the county are: Dean Close, Cheltenham Ladies College, KLB and Stroud.

Succession planning Ian would like to look for a replacement Chair this year, so there is a conversation to be had with Graham about how we might go about talking with clubs for volunteers. Aim for volunteers to be discussed at the next AGM.

Full reports can be found in full on the GHA website at:

<https://glos-ha.org.uk/?q=node/225>

9 Actions

| Number | Owner | Action | Update |
|--------|-------|---|--------|
| 1123/1 | James | Ask Jerry Tranter for an umpiring update at the next meeting | |
| 1123/2 | James | Ask RO coaching if they would be able to support Crypt School with coaching and how much that might cost | |
| 1123/3 | Ian | Graham, Ian and Andrew to have a conversation about what communication tasks could be done as a priority. | |

10 Date of future meetings

| Month | Date | Location |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| January | Thursday 25 th | CACSSA (booked) |
| March | Thursday 21 st | CACSSA (booked) |
| May - AGM | Wednesday 22 nd | Zoom |
| June | Wednesday 5 th | CACSSA |

All of the above meetings will be held at 19:30.

Andrew Hopcraft
GHA Secretary