

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 25th January 2024 at Cotswold Area Civil Service Sports Association (CACSSA)

1 Attendance

Present: Ian Harvey (Chair), Andrew Hopcraft (Secretary), Shaun Cullimore (Treasurer), James Doughty (Youth Coordinator), Helen Jefferies (Youth Coordinator), Lisa Lundie (Schools Coordinator), Graham Wayland (Communications Officer), Steve Foster (Men's Masters Coordinator), Bob Moxom (Vice Chair).

Apologies: Sally Privett (West Masters representative and Women's Masters Coordinator), Liz Waltham (Welfare Officer).

Not Present: None.

2 Minutes from the Last Meeting - 23rd November 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 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	In progress for further discussion at the next meeting
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	No further response expected, so action closed.
0623/8	Graham	Find the right POC at each club for communication and introduce	Sent, awaiting responses

		himself	
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
0923/4	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	Underway
1123/1	James	Ask Jerry Tranter for an umpiring update at the next meeting	Complete
1123/2	James	Ask RO coaching if they would be able to support Crypt School with coaching and how much that might cost	Done, awaiting response
1123/3	Ian	Graham, Ian and Andrew to have a conversation about what communication tasks could be done as a priority.	Complete

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 were previously approved to be the GHA Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The NS&I form was completed with those names and signed by members at the meeting.

The finances look to be in a good position for this time of year and reconciled well to ClubBuzz. A small surplus is expected from Junior County hockey and breakeven from Junior Competitions, so a small surplus overall is expected at this point.

Shaun Cullimore has resigned from his post as Treasurer to finish at the end of this season and was thanked enthusiastically by the committee for his long service.

The bank debit card application form was signed by the Treasurer and the Chair.

6 Reports

Secretary There has been 1 additional applicant for funding; more detail has been asked for but there has been no response yet.

James Doughty and Bob Moxom reported that in the matter of funding a GHA contribution towards James Hutchins coaching course costs, Lansdown Hockey Club had informally responded that it did not agree with the GHA requirement to provide audited accounts as a matter of principle. This was because Lansdown Hockey Club strongly felt that GHA was not constituted to means test funding applications. This position was then debated at some length and it was clear there was a division of opinion in the Committee and this was unlikely to be resolved easily. As a result a compromise was proposed by Steve Foster which resulted in the following 3 proposals:

1. GHA would pay 50% of James Hutchins coaching course costs of £195 (5 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstained, so **this was approved**).
2. At the AGM in May, GHA would ask affiliated hockey clubs to voluntarily provide a copy of their latest annual financial reports. The rationale behind this would be that it would help GHA to be more proactive in offering financial support in the future (6 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstained, so **this was approved**).
3. The planned review of the Grant Funding Policy should be brought forward from September 2024 to the next committee meeting (**unanimously approved**).

Schools GHA is just about to start the boys tournaments, with U14 next Friday. There are not enough teams for U18 or U16s tournaments. Tournament entries can be summarised as follows:

	U18 Tier 3	U16 Tier 3	U14 Tier 2	U13 Tier 1	U13 Tier 2	U12	U11
Girls entries	6 (5)	10 (7)	13 (10)	3 (2)	12 (11)	10 (8)	5 (5)
Boys entries	2 (2)	1 (1)	4 (3)	3 (4)	6 (3)	8 (4)	4 (4)

Last years entry numbers in brackets

Crypt school have a new, very enthusiastic hockey teacher who would like to restart hockey at the school. They have no equipment and so have asked for support from GHA, particularly with goal keeper equipment. **It was unanimously approved** that GHA would provide a grant of £1,000 and that West Hockey would be approached by letter from Lisa to match our contribution. James to support Lisa directly with the school to provide appropriate advice.

When we review the grant funding process we need to include how we seed fund schools starting up new hockey capabilities.

3 schools have asked for coaching support and James is working with Lisa to provide appropriate help.

A date has been set for the new state school tournament initiative by England Hockey and so an additional tournament will be run on March 8th. It is still in the planning phase, so as yet we do not have an exact number of entries but we have at least 4 schools interested.

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

Hockey Fever proposal Hockey Fever are interested in taking over the running of school and club competition from the 2024/5 season but we have had no other commercial responses. They have asked for some more information about which schools and clubs, which age groups, costs, etc. **It was unanimously agreed** that detail would be provided to Hockey Fever by 17 February to allow them to create a fully costed proposal in time for the next committee meeting. Details of club contacts would be provided only if successful and a member of Hockey Fever may be invited to join the GHA Committee for the duration of any contract.

Junior Competitions In the first half of the season (October to December) there were Clubs Festivals for U8 mixed, U10 girls and boys, U12 girls and boys and U12 A Teams girls and boys. These were generally well supported as can be seen from the table below. The numbers would have been higher, but the weather on 3rd December led to the cancellation of the U12 girls and boys Festivals that day. The total entries were as follows:

U8 Mixed	U10 Girls	U10 Boys	U12 Girls	U12 Boys	U12 A Girls	U12 A Boys
32	41	26	33	19	26	15

Overall a total of 192 teams entered and average numbers were a slight decrease from 2022 - 23; in that season there were a total of 196 team entries, but with more dates cancelled due to bad weather. Looking at the detail though; U8s and U10s increased, U12s decreased. Invoices for a total of £4,800.00 have been sent out although payment has still to be received from some of the Clubs.

Support for the Festivals in January has started well with high numbers of entries, indeed the U8s will need a different venue next season as there are now too many teams for Bournside. All the expected In2Hockey U10 and U12 girls and boys entries have been received as well as payments. 25th February is U12s date at Dean Close, 10th March is U10s date and is at CLC as Dean Close was not available.

An email was sent over Christmas to all GHA Junior contacts regarding replacements for both Ian as Clubs organiser and Lisa Lundie as schools organiser. The request was for Clubs to canvas their members to see if

there might be a volunteer or several who could take on the roles. To date there has not even been an acknowledgement of the need!

Junior County Hockey All is going very well, with the league due to start on the 11th February – all league dates are now set. Joint U15-U17 training with Stourport TA has gone well as has the first indoor tournament on 7th January. Finances remain positive with £1,000 surplus expected. Indoor tournaments are being planned for April.

Masters hockey

Womens Social Masters hockey continues to be played between some of the Gloucestershire clubs. Newent O35's are the only Gloucestershire team left in any of the EH Masters age group competitions.

Mens There are 2 O60's teams in the quarter finals for the EH Master plate. The general consensus is that there's just too much masters hockey going on with the same group of players taking part in all of the competitions. The challenge seems to be to get more players involved and to perhaps create a genuine tier system based on ability. There are more masters players out there in the county at all age groups but as ever the barrier is leadership and organisation to get them mobilised.

Welfare

No issues reported.

Communications

Graham, Ian and Andrew have had a conversation about what communication tasks could be done as a priority by the Communications Officer. The introductory letter to Clubs and Schools has been issued and the GHA Twitter account is now in use. Creation of an updated hockey logo is to be investigated further with Lance at the Stick Club initially.

7 GHA strategy

To be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

8 AOB

Treasurer Succession planning

A job description to be created and communicated for volunteers

It would be good to get volunteers from clubs who are not currently represented at the GHA committee.

Sarah's Super Scheduling Software (SSSS)

This has been very successfully tested at both a schools tournament and the indoor county tournament as well as a Hockey Fever tournament. Sarah can only run it locally at this stage, but it will be deployed in the summer so that it can be run by any registered user anywhere. Feedback so far has been excellent.

Full reports

Full reports can be found in full on the GHA website.

9 Date of future meetings

Month	Date	Location
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, except for Thursday 21st March which will start at 19:00.

The agenda for the next committee meeting is to be:

1. AGM preparation
2. Hockey Fever proposal
3. Grant policy review
4. Strategy review

10 Actions

Number	Owner	Action	Update
0124/1	All	When we review the grant funding process we need to include how we seed fund schools starting up new hockey capabilities	
0124/2	All	Follow GHA on X (formally Twitter)	
0124/3	All	Proposals for changes to the funding process to be submitted to Andrew by 23 February	
0124/4	Shaun	Create a job description for the Treasurer role	
0124/5	Shaun	Create a job description for the Website role	
0124/6	Graham	Communicate the Treasurer and Website roles for volunteers	

Andrew Hopcraft
GHA Secretary