



East Grinstead Hockey Club AGM

Wednesday 28 June 2017 8pm

Attendees:

Jo Malkin, Shelagh Legg, David Thomson, Will Arthur, Shelley O'Brien, Helen Prinsloo, Nigel Knight, Peter Malkin, Owen Hill, Mark Hollis, Mary Booth, R Evans, Jojo Davis, Steve Remfry, Roger Hanspal, David Sumpter, Adam Halpin, Chris Gregory, James Leman

Apologies:

Simon Longhurst, Giles Dakin, John Malkin, Alan Collinge, Donna Sadler, Siobhan Hollis

Approval of Last Year's Minutes

These were approved. Proposer Roger Hanspal, Seconder Adam Halpin

Matters Arising

Governance – covered in chairman's report.

Chairman's Report

Report attached.

CG explained that the issue of governance is yet to be resolved as the question of VAT for Elite and Academy is uncertain. Cost of employing an expert £2-3K. The 2 companies are close to the VAT threshold if added together.

Website – JoJo Davis was co-opted as website operator.

Fundraising – Roger Hanspal asked if budget for this. CG advised that target is £150k, with 10% fee payable to introducers.

EGSC – membership if EGSC for club members is to rise by £10 for adults and £5 for juniors. This element of subs goes direct to the operating company. There will be a service level agreement with the new operator plus a user agreement.

Governance

Covered in chairman's report.

Financial Reports

See attached.

Steve Remfry presented the consolidated accounts. Main points were that subs were up, pitch hire up due to increased fees by Freedom Leisure. Coaching fees down as Ladies' 1s fees now included in Elite. Reserves to carry forward £42K. Jo Malkin commented on discrepancies between ladies' and men's fees. Partly due to number of teams and also ladies' section exercising better control over numbers for teas.

Captain's Reports

Helen Prinsloo reported on the ladies' section. BBs finished 3rd, 4th XI in 1st season in their league did well to finish 3rd. 3rd XI had tough season partly due to availability. 2s were promoted. 1st team did well to finish 3rd. Mary Booth commented that new blood is needed. Thanks were given to umpires and volunteers.

Will Arthur present the men's report Badgers won their league by 3 points. Saints were a success and too strong for their league. – they will play in the London League next season. Vets 3rd in the strong London Div 1, lost in the final of the league cp and reached QF of England Hockey knockout competition. 4th team were 5th, 3rd team after tough time last season finished 6th and found their feet. 2s had a frustrating season with close games that yielded nothing, but won the winner takes all final match of the season to stay up. Also won Sussex cup. 1st team narrowly missed play offs, struggled with injuries but have players coming through. Indoors tough, performed well in Europe. Thanks to all volunteers.



Anna Lewis-Martinez reported on the junior section. They have had a fantastic season. It is not all about winning and it has been great to watch players develop. Held U6 tournament, atrocious weather and EG teams finished 2nd and 3rd. U8s won Home Counties League and held own tournament with 21 teams entered – this was won by one of the 5 EG teams. U10 boys no league yet but plenty of matches, 2nd at Ron Easton tournament, qualified for regionals where they finished 2nd in the plate. U10 girls entered U9 and U10 team in Home Counties league. U10 team won Ron Easton and were 4th at regionals. U12 girls playing 11-a-side matches in Home Counties League, won Ron Easton. U12 boys won all matches in Mercian League and won Ron Easton. Christmas party was a success as was the junior awards held same day as the seniors. The section continues to grow, more coaches are being trained and more still needed. Paid thanks to senior and junior committees, all volunteers, Shelley O'Brien and Roger Hanspal.

Election of Vice-presidents

The committee proposed that Glenn Kirkham be added. The Vice-Presidents were then voted in.

Election of Officers

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Chris Gregory	Adam Halpin	David Sumpter
Vice-Chair	Mark Hollis	Owen Hill	Shelley O'Brien
Hon Secretary	Shelagh Legg	Chris Gregory	Adam Halpin
Treasurer (men)	Steve Remfry	Will Arthur	Owen Hill
Treasurer (ladies)	Helen Prinsloo Donna Sadler	Jo Malkin	Mark Hollis
Fixture Secretary	Rachel Coleman	Roger Hanspal	Adam Halpin
Membership Secretary	Shelley O'Brien	Anna Lewis-Martinez	Roger Hanspal
Welfare Officer	Peter Malkin	David Sumpter	Owen Hill
EH/Sussex Rep	Dave Thomson	Will Arthur	Steve Remfry

Any Other Business

Owen Hill brought up the issue of men's 2nd team training which was raised last year. WA advised that Bram is being brought in as coach. Bringing through a number of 3s players, building a squad and a culture, using 1st team players when available. They are looking at a Thursday training session. There is a plan and whilst players coming up may find it tough to start with, there is quality there.

David Sumpter queried whether there has been progress re the academy dispute with EGHA. CG advised that this is being dealt with but not appropriate for an open forum at present.

Mary Booth asked if there are plans to get into local secondary schools. ALM replied that we have tried every year but the problem is that as we rely on volunteer coaches, they are not available during school hours. Adam Halpin stated that there are now increasing numbers from Sackville and ALM added that there are more children from local primary schools which may help in the long term.



APPENDIX 1

Chairman's Report

Summary

We are continuing to move forward, with growth in our membership. We are currently over 500 members and are recognized by England Hockey as being part of the "Big 50"

We have added an additional men's team this year born out of both B2H and some of our more senior members returning. The growth in the Junior section continues unabated with over 120 children on our waiting list. This in turn causes huge pressures on both the coaches- we need more and pitch time.

Governance

Having got the good news out now for my kicking. I said we would go to an EGM last September but that caused an issue with VAT. We were informed that this could lead to all our revenue streams being subjected to VAT. We ended up with 2 conflicting views. To this end I am trying to source another view from a VAT consultant but that is proving difficult with limited funds.

In the short term we have put members of the club into the operations of the 2 companies. Richard Leman and I are now on the management team of EGHC Elite and Junior Committee members are involved and others are looking after EGHC Academy.

For info the directors of Elite are Simon Longhurst and James Leman and the Academy they are Mark Cooper, Simon Longhurst and Adam Halpin. I can only apologise for the delay but we are continuing to move this forward

I will pause here for questions.

Web Site

As you are fully aware this has also been a bone of contention with it being unreliable. We now have 2 new websites for both the Club and academy so thanks to Simon for the work he has put in. We are about to train some members in to how these sites work and to help us add content, so please if you have something you feel should go on let me in first instance send me the wording in Word and I will endeavour to get it added. You will be informed later the contact details of our editors once they are fully up to speed.

Elite

As you know this company's job is to protect you and look after the 1's both Ladies and Men's 1's. Running 2 premier teams is not a cheap option and we need to continue to raise funds through Sponsorship (Banners, Adverts, Shirts, Match day) This has been handled in the past by 2 members but due to work pressures this is un-sustainable. They will continue to do "their bit" but a new committee is being formed to spread the work load.

This came out of some meetings with both our senior players and some coaches for our juniors where we asked them to identify potential sponsors. If any of you here know of Companies that we could approach via yourselves please tell us. The idea here is to get a number of people involved to spread the workload and also have some fun by working together.

EGSC



You will be aware that the contract with Freedom Leisure is coming to an end and EGSC Trustees have been working on finding a replacement operator. This process started at the beginning of the season and still continues to run. Initially they wanted an operator that could inject cash for improving the facility but that failed to materialize as most of the bigger companies would rather invest in Local Council Facilities where the returns could be higher. They also approached MSDC for funds but again this was not to be.

This sounds like a nightmare but 2 new companies have been identified who are actually excited at this project and they will be making presentations to the Trustees in early July. This in fact could be a bonus for us as both Operating Companies won't work with the clubs so see how they can improve the revenue streams for both us and themselves. We all know that the services provided have taken a downward turn over the last 2 years.

We will keep you informed as to how these meetings progress and hopefully we will have a new operator by October.

Subs

Coming out of these discussions it would appear clubs do not pull their weight in financial terms we can argue that but where would that get us but EGSC have put up the membership fee from £26 to £36 for the coming season.

We at EGHC have not put our subs up for 3 years with the current sub being £395. In that time we have seen pitch hire increase, teas increase plus affiliation fees go up. To compensate for this the subscription for full members will go up to £415. I know this will cause an issue but we have no alternative but to put in an increase.

Thanks

When I took over I wanted to spread the workload around and I am pleased to say this has happened but that is not to say more can't be done.

Can I thank the members of the committee who have guided me through the last season. A special thanks to Anna Lewis-Martinez our Jnr. Chairman who is leaving us today due to her moving house this summer. We owe you a lot. Thanks also to Mak who is stepping down as Welfare Officer.

Can I thank team captains, team managers, coaches, and umpires for all their work not just in the season but all year. The ball patrol organisers and also took part on Saturday and Sundays

To Steve and Jo Remfry who have manned the ticket desk for so many years, but have decided to call it a day. If you know of anyone who could man the ticket desk for next season and also someone who would look after our Ball patrol please let us know.

In fact to all the teams of volunteers who cleaned the dugouts, chopped trees, set up the pitch and PA system. The teams who organized the Awards dinner, those who refurbished 2 changing rooms- you might be required again.

A final thank you to the players and I hoped you all had fun