

Deeside Ramblers Hockey Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the season 2020/21

Held at the clubhouse on Thursday 2 September 2021 at 7.30pm

Attendance

Howard Green took the chair. The meeting was declared quorate and in addition apologies had been received from a further 14 club members.

Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising

The minutes of the previous AGM held Thursday 3 September 2020 had been made available and their approval was proposed by Ollie de Braekeleer, seconded by David Pinnington, approved by the members present, and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising which are not covered by the agenda for this meeting.

Annual Report from the Executive Committee

Howard summarised as follows:

Playing

Whilst the league season had been decimated resulting in the voiding of all leagues in which we compete we have ended up playing almost as much hockey as in 'normal times'. After lockdown we were able to extend Saturday matches through until the end of May for Men and June for the Ladies; Sunday morning training continued until the end of June; we ran an expanded summer mixed and summer mixed league programme; Beth relaunched the hockey camp offering which was really well attended; and our coaches put on very popular 1 to 1 coaching sessions. There was good use of the pitch for personal training.

Indeed, it feels like last season has never ended and a large number of people need to be thanked for going the extra mile: coaches; captains; and the members of the Executive Committee who have reacted positively to all the challenges faced.

The club has done a good job of creating enthusiasm for hockey and participation has been excellent – as an example over the last three months:

121 different players at Wednesday night mixed;

130 young people taking part in summer camps;

2 hockey festivals;

10 mixed inter-club summer league games;

An additional back-to-hockey session added to the timetable;

Introduction of Walking Hockey with up to 20 attendees on a Tuesday morning.

We also had 8 players come through the junior development system attending the Futures Cup with 2 of them also making it through to NAGS trials.

In addition, there were 9 players selected to represent Tensworth.

A key task for the upcoming season was to make sure that we reengage with the 25 players who decided for work or personal reasons to take a 'hockey sabbatical' last season.

A special thanks was extended to Lucy Woodside who took on the unenviable task of club Covid-19 Officer. Lucy guided us with skill and the right amount of persuasion through the last 16 months, kept relationships between EH and the club positive, and this meant we could all safely enjoy our sport.

Managing the club

Amongst all the challenges of the last 12 months there has also been a significant change management programme taking place within the world of (English) hockey. It says much about the quality of the club, its members and its management, that we have been able to take this in our stride.

The first part of this has been working through the implications of the **England Hockey Governance Review** and the restructuring of league hockey. In practice this means new league structures; new harmonised regulations covering the sport; and the introduction of new systems for managing fixtures, player registration, and match day management.

There was much to recommend in the proposals particularly on the administration side: creation of a single player registration database; simplification and harmonisation of the technology underpinning hockey administration; a single and uniformly aligned Affiliation process; a single set of regulations for the management of the game; joint gender delivery through integrated governance and management bodies; and an agreed framework for playing formats particularly at the junior level.

The launch of the new systems infrastructure – the Game Management System – is currently behind schedule and is going to put pressure on the start of the new season.

Howard noted that we would need to make a number of appointments to help run the new-ways-of-working including Club GMS Administrator, Liaison Officer(s), Umpire Appointments, and that team captains were going to have to carry out matchday administration tasks via the GMS. The request for volunteers to help manage the changes had been publicised.

The second part of the change programme, which landed as we were getting our heads round the proposed changes to the adult leagues, was the announcement that there was to be a complete restructuring of junior hockey with mini-leagues being created at under-8, 10 and 12 levels. We are working through the execution of this but again it will need resources to make it successful, particularly team managers.

The third part of the change programme and perhaps the most radical was the so-called Talent Development Framework. This will lead to the dismantling of the current Player Pathway and the creation of new structures for the delivery of Talent Development. These new structures see the creation of Talent Academies and Talent Centres, the latter being in effect a quality and consistency 'kite mark' for the work a club carries out in respect of junior development.

The club decided that they would register their interest in becoming a Talent Centre. EH received some 120 Expressions of Interest and we were one of just over 30 clubs invited to go through the accreditation process which will be starting this month. The other Cheshire Clubs invited to apply in this first wave are Alderley Edge, Bowdon and Timperley.

We hope to achieve accreditation by March 2022 but again this will require volunteer engagement. The skills and number of volunteers will become clearer once the Talent Centre guidelines and submission requirements are made clear and at that point we will seek the help of the membership.

In terms of the club's playing facilities and the clubhouse the most important activities have been the completion of the pitch 'Rejuvenation' process which is designed to improve drainage on the main pitch by reducing compaction and removing detritus and which is expected to extend the life of the carpet by about 2 years. The pitch maintenance regime has also been improved through the use of third-party contractors.

Howard expressed a big vote of thanks from the Executive Committee to David Pinnington who has stepped into the gap left by Geoff the groundsman who has retired on the grounds of ill-health.

There is a significant maintenance project that we will be undertaking over the next couple of months and that involves the replacement of the current metal halide floodlights and luminaires with LED lights.

We will need to raise around £25,000 through fundraising activities with the balance being met from the sinking fund. There will be a fund-raising meeting of members wishing to help in general fund raising activities on 13 September, coordinated by Beth Alvey.

Five potential suppliers had been approached in respect of the floodlights and the selected supplier Musco Lighting best met the needs and capabilities of the club. There is a decent payback of around 5 years on the project which comes from reduced energy consumption, lower maintenance costs, and the longer product life of LED compared to metal halide.

Moving indoors those present could see that the club lounge and kitchen had been redecorated and there have also been improvements to the showers and changing rooms. Hopefully members can see and appreciate the difference.

Howard thanked all our volunteers with a special mention to Simon Anderson who was stepping down from his role of cashier, barman, and head of personal charisma.

Accounts for 2020 -2021 and report from the Honorary Examiner

Anne Allwood presented the accounts, a copy of which will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

It was noted that from a financial perspective we had performed well during the year with good control of costs and better than planned income generation enabling us to maintain financial headroom and continue to invest in the club. Importantly new fundraising activities, notably the Hockey 7s and Junior Hockey Camps, had meant that we more than offset the loss of our usual sources of revenue which we plan will return in more normal times. Examples of the latter are income from the OPAL group, other club hire, match day food sales, social events, team fundraising, and the auction of promises.

There had also been a number of generous donations from club members and we had successfully applied for a number of grants. Donations & grants were £9,000 ahead of the prior year.

Anne answered questions arising.

The Honorary Examiner confirmed that he was happy with the Accounts as presented. Charles thanked Anne Allwood and Simon Anderson for their work on the accounts throughout the year.

Approval of the Accounts was proposed by Brian Tenner, seconded by James Lawlor, and approved by the meeting.

Subscriptions

After explaining the background to the discussion on the level of subscriptions for the coming season the Executive proposed that the annual subscription rate be held at the current levels except for the introduction of a new band for the youngest of our members in the Reception to Year 2 age-group. The intention was to encourage participation and retention through this move. The proposed schedule of subscription rates would thus be as follows:

Adults £220

Juniors reception to year 2 £20

Junior years 3 to 6 £62

Juniors years 7 & 8 £85

Juniors years 9 & 10 £100

Juniors year 11 and full-time students £120

Vice Presidents and non-playing social members £50

Howard noted that EH now require clubs to cover members for Personal Accident and to that end insurance had been put in place from 1 September 2021. The club had absorbed this cost and individual players would no longer be asked to carry their own insurance as they would be covered under the club policy. The membership section of the website would be changed as appropriate.

The recommended subscription level was proposed by Isaac Deakin, seconded by Miles Lewis and was approved by the meeting.

Appointment of the Honorary Examiner

Charles Elphick stated his willingness to continue as Honorary Examiner. His election was proposed by Howard Green, seconded by Anne Allwood, and was approved by the meeting.

Election of the Officers of the Club and members of the Executive Committee

David Linton and Piers Fielding had decided not to offer themselves for re-election. On behalf of the club Howard thanked both for their contribution in the many roles they had fulfilled.

In respect of the Officers of the Club the nominations by the Executive Committee were as follows:

Howard Green, Chair, proposed by Beth Alvey and seconded by Anne Allwood;

Anne Allwood, Treasurer and Financial Officer, proposed by Beth Alvey and seconded by Brian Tenner;

Simon Stacpoole, Honorary Secretary, proposed by Dickie Wallis and seconded by David Pinnington.

All were individually and unanimously approved by those present.

Election of other members of the Executive Committee and Vice-Presidents

Other members of the committee had all offered to continue in office and having made themselves available it was proposed that they should be re-elected.

This motion was proposed by Howard, seconded by Ollie de Braekeleer and was approved unanimously by the meeting. As such Lucy Woodside, Beth Alvey, Dickie Wallis, and Stephen Cheshire were duly re-elected to the Executive Committee.

It was the intention of the Executive Committee to seek new members. Initially they would be co-opted to the Committee and be confirmed at the next AGM or EGM should one occur.

In respect of Vice-Presidents the Executive Committee nominated the existing roll as candidates: Howard Green proposed the election of the current Vice-Presidents, this was seconded by James Lawlor, and approved by the meeting.

Howard reported that one of the trustees of the club had stood down on the grounds of ill-health and the remaining trustees had asked David Linton to join them. The scope and responsibilities of the trustees was being reviewed and Howard undertook to report back at the appropriate time. In the meantime, David Linton would fulfil the role as requested.

Any other business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signature of the Chair:

Date: