

Minutes of
South East Hockey Limited Annual General Meeting
held by Zoom on Thursday 10th July 2025

Attendees

Mark Hollis – South East Hockey Chair

John Thompson – Finance Director, South East Hockey, and Fleet & Ewshot HC

Matt Sharp – Masters Chair, South East Hockey, and K Sports HC

Ben Holder – Vice Chair, South East Hockey, and Tunbridge Wells HC

Francis Bridgeman – Chair of EDI, South East Hockey, and Tunbridge Wells HC

Charlotte Hope – Ops Admin, South East Hockey, and Marden Russets HC

Sam Lewis – Observer, England Hockey

Gaynor Toms – Club Development Manager, England Hockey

Julia Shorrocks – Brighton & Hove HC

Mike Kefford – Guildford HC

Neil Thompson – Old Williamsonian HC

Terry Pullin – Hawks HC

Karen Stevenson – Blackheath & Elthamians HC

Ian Harper – Old Williamsonian HC

Paul Bullard – Gravesham & Wellcome HC

Sue Perry – Chair, Sussex Hockey

Claire Beetlestone – Old Georgians HC

Graham Vaughan – Canterbury HC

Katy Ovenell – Burnt Ash HC

Robert Gopinath – Cheam HC

Karen Edwards – Brighton & Hove HC

John Bartlett – Hailsham HC

Tasha Hookway – Eastbourne HC

Martijn de Bruin – East Grinstead HC

Chris Butler – Appointments Lead, South East Hockey, and Fleet & Ewshot HC

All AGM reports can be found on the South East Hockey website:

<https://southeast.englishhockey.co.uk/about-south-east-hockey/documents-policies/s-east-hockey-agm-documents>.

1. Welcome and introductions

Ben Holder, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and John Thompson, Finance Director of South East Hockey (SEH).

2. Chair's remarks

Full report posted on the website.

Registered thanks to Mark Hollis who has had to step down as Chair of SEH due to ill health. Hope to welcome him back onto the Board in the near future. Annual report has been posted on the website.

Welcome to Neil Thompson, Old Williamsonian HC, as the new Chair Elect of SEH. Matt Sharp, K Sports HC and current SEH Masters Chair, is joining the Board as Operations Director. Kay Parsons has agreed to take over as Chair of Masters, to replace Matt Sharp. Charlotte Hope will be taking over as the new Chair of the Adult League Management Committee. Sam Lewis (EH) was asked to ratify these appointments. Duly ratified.

SEH will be launching the SEH Futures initiative in the coming months. Lead by JD O'Brien and supported Gaynor Toms, England Hockey, and Ben Holder on behalf of the SEH board.

Emma Yorke and Elouise Chowne have both stood down from the SEH Board. We will be co-opting a new board member following this meeting, but we are in urgent need of a Social Media lead to replace Emma who has significantly raised the profile of SEH over the last three years.

3. Approval of last year's AGM minutes, held on 8th July 2024

Posted on the SEH website. Proposed by John Thompson, seconded by Sam Lewis. Approved.

4. South East Hockey Annual Accounts

Full accounts posted on the SEH website.

John Thompson shared a recap of the balance sheet from 2024 which was filed in January 2025. Paid some corporation tax due to interest bearing deposit accounts.

Summary of draft accounts for the 24-25 season. Surplus down to £5k which is the aim when holding reserves. Small surpluses from adult and junior comps, and officiating income which will be offset by umpire development. More income from interest bearing accounts, some of which will be paid in corporation tax.

Expenses include a full year of Admin support, substantial costs of email and IT accounts, donation to ID Hockey competition, and pin badges for masters participants.

Junior competition entries are split by schools and clubs. Substantial outgoings for pitch hire and medals. Small contribution to email addresses and admin support.

Masters competitions range across the year-end boundaries, with the assessments and training before the year-end and the tournaments taking place after it. Poor weather delayed resulted in fewer participants and therefore lower income. Financial support provided to managers and coaches.

Indoor comps show a small surplus, mainly down to the generosity of the host clubs and schools. High level of umpire expenses.

Officiating is running at a surplus of approx. 6% which will be re-invested into umpire development fund. No plans to increase the umpire fees.

General and officiating expenses include a Macbook for the Officiating Chair and some costs to development events.

Summary:

- Essentially broken even on operations, as a result we are not proposing to raise any entry fees;
- Intend to invest a large proportion of reserves to promoting Hockey Futures in state schools;
- Discussing supporting financially some of the volunteers who take on the most arduous roles;
- With Companies House changing how accounts are filed, investigating how we show our reserves so we aren't caught out with taxes.

Questions were then invited:

Martijn de Bruin asked for clarification on the reduction in surplus from £21k in 23-24 to £5k in 24-25. John Thompson explained a number of factors:

- less doubling up on appointments leading to higher expenses claims
- spent more on officiating development
- funding of state school festivals
- purchase of a Macbook for Officiating Chair plus increased Pitchero costs
- support for the ID teams
- Coach and Manager support for Masters squads
- accountability and transparency of the Masters programme

Thanks recorded to John Thompson for preparing the accounts.

6. Independent Scrutineer's report on the Company

Graham Jackson (CGMA, ACMA) scrutinised the Accounts for 2024 – 25 and found them to be an accurate reflection of the company's finances.

7. Proposals for Membership Subscription Fees

The Company proposes that the Member Subscription payments should be:

For Voting Member Clubs, the proposal for Subscriptions shall be £15 per team, unchanged from the previous season.

Proposed by Martijn de Bruin, Seconded by Charlotte Hope. Approved.

8. Proposals for Adult Competition League Entry Fees

The Company proposes that the entry fees for the Adult leagues shall be £10 per team, unchanged from the previous season.

Proposed by Matt Sharp, Seconded by Karen Edwards. Approved.

9. Any Other Business

a. Reserves for State Schools Hockey (Futures) – Sue Perry

What is the process for clubs to express an interest and receive funding? Ben Holder explained that it was all relatively new. JD O'Brien has stepped forward to organise Futures. SEH have earmarked £15k for year 1 on the basis that London failed to distribute their £20k budget. Will share the launch document that has been drawn up by Gaynor Toms, JD O'Brien and Ben Holder. The working paper has gone to clubs for an expression of interest. BH to share with Sue Perry as the Chair of Sussex.

Karen Edwards, Brighton & Hove HC, advised that the club had run a summer programme which was very successful, with 27 of the 30 state school children subsequently joining the club. KE to share processes with smaller local clubs. BH to take offline with KE to ensure consistency and best practice.

b. Point of Order – raised by Sam Lewis, England Hockey

Should have a show of hands for the vote on the Membership Subscriptions, Adult League Fees and Minutes of 2024 AGM.

- The Company proposes that the Subscriptions for Voting Member Clubs shall be £15 per team. Show of hands and approved. (see 7. above)

- The Company proposes that the entry fees for the Adult leagues shall be £10 per team. Show of hands and approved. (see 8. above)

- The Company seeks approval of the 2024 AGM Minutes. Show of hands and approved. (see 3. above)

c. Playing surfaces – Julia Shorrocks, Brighton & Hove HC

Is there anything SEH can do to stop the loss of pitches to football surfaces? Matt Sharp, Operations Director, will be looking at a pitch playing strategy and framework. Neil Thompson, SEH Chair, suggested engagement with house builders. Sam Lewis, England Hockey, added the following links to the meeting chat:

<https://buddle.co/learning-and-support-resources/facilities-and-spaces/playing-pitch-strategies>

<https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/deliver/facilities/developing-your-project>

d. Appointed Umpires – Karen Edwards, Brighton & Hove HC

What is being done to support getting appointed umpires to all relevant matches? Specifically, should there be games at Division 1 level that should be getting appointed umpires? Chris Butler, Appointments Lead, SEH, said that there were more appointed umpires on paper than ever before.

e. Various points - Sue Perry, Sussex Hockey Chair

- referring to b. playing surfaces, reported that she sits on a committee with Sussex Football, Cricket & Rugby. Helps to ensure that all sports work together on facilities.
- referring to the suggestion from the Finance Report that some volunteers may be paid. Believes this sets a precedent and is concerned about transparency. It was explained that this would be aimed primarily at Adult League Reps. Of the 8 Div Reps, 7 are from the Invicta area. Three would like to step down and their role is critical to the operation of the leagues. Charlotte Hope, ALMC Chair, to review the job descriptions for the Div Reps.

Meeting closed at 20.31.