



**MIDLANDS
HOCKEY**

MIDLANDS HOCKEY LTD

AGM

5th July 2023

Candidates for Election



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Brief Role Descriptions

Full role descriptions are available on the Midlands Hockey website [Role Descriptions](#)

The following two Director roles are available for election at the 2023 AGM

Operations Director

To support the Chair and Board in the achievement of Strategic objectives and act as a confidential sounding board whilst promoting good governance and to provide an efficient administration service to the Area, ensuring the Area functions smoothly and effectively. Be the main communication link between internal and external stakeholders embedding effective membership consultation. All hockey related committee chairs report to the Operations Director to ensure synergies and operational alignment are achieved.

Governance Director

To be responsible for promoting good corporate governance and educating members, embedding and documenting good practice within the Area. Supporting the promotion of a proactive approach to player welfare and safety. Ensuring the data management systems are used appropriately and that information is held safely and kept updated, to help contribute to the efficient running of the Area. Establish credibility with stakeholders, including local authorities and educational establishments and help to maintain the integrity of the England Hockey brand to attract potential sponsors.

Other Director roles (not available for election 2023).

Chair

To provide vision, leadership and business planning to lead and develop all aspects of the Area, from playing and development to running the administration and fundraising. Ensuring that support for succession planning is in place, for the benefit of all. Current postholder – Tim Lorimer.

Vice Chair

To support the Chair in providing the vision, leadership and business planning to help develop all aspects of the Area, from playing and development to running the administration and fundraising. Ensuring that support for succession planning is in place, for the benefit of all. Current postholder – Nicky Dyke

Finance Director

To manage the Area finances, contribute to strategic business planning and review and recommend financial policies and controls for the Area to enable appropriate management information is available to underpin Board decisions. Provide contributions as a Director to the Area Board of Directors. Current postholder – Claire Wright.

Lead Committee Chairs – brief role descriptions

The following Area Lead Committee Chair roles are elected each year at the AGM. They lead their own committees and are also members of the Area Management Committee.

Chair Adult Competitions & Leagues

To provide vision, leadership and strategic planning in all aspects of the Area Adult League & Competition in line with England Hockey guidelines. To oversee the Area Adult League & Competition committee ensuring delivery and monitoring of a robust adult league and competition programme, with a high level of customer satisfaction.

Chair Junior Competitions & Leagues

To provide vision, leadership and strategic planning to help develop all aspects of Junior Competitions across the Area in line with the England Hockey Junior Competitions Framework. To oversee the Junior Competition committee ensuring partnership working between EH, the Area and sub-areas to deliver a robust programme, for the benefit of all.

Chair Masters Hockey

To provide vision, leadership and business planning to help develop all aspects of Masters hockey across the Area in line with the England Hockey framework. To oversee the Masters committee ensuring partnership working between the Areas to deliver a robust programme, for the benefit of all.

Chair Officiating

To provide vision, leadership and strategic planning in all aspects of the Area Officiating in line with the England Hockey guidelines. To oversee the Officiating committee to ensure delivery of umpire developer and development pathways to umpires at all levels, with a high level of customer satisfaction. Being an important link between Officiating and the rest of the game.

Chair Discipline

To provide leadership to ensure effective management and delivery of all aspects of 'Area' Discipline and undertake tasks assigned by the National Disciplinary Panel (NDP) of which you will also be a member. To support review of disciplinary processes across the sport. **(NB This is an appointed role, not elected at the AGM).**

Candidates for Director Roles

Operations Director

Name: Stuart Clark

A little about Stuart Clark:

An enthusiastic, committed, hardworking APM registered Manager with twenty-five years' experience within the construction industry. A skilled and confident individual having worked with industry professionals, clients and stakeholders across a wide range of commercial, residential and bespoke projects. I am also an ex-international hockey player (Representing Great Britain, Scotland and most recently England Masters) and currently play for Northampton Saints 1st XI.

Nominated by: Andy Dale

Seconded by: Ian McIlwaine

Governance Director

Name: Joanne Kennedy-Reardon

A little about Joanne Kennedy-Reardon:

In February 2023 I was co-opted to the Board of Directors of Midlands Hockey Ltd as Governance Director, part of the remit being to promote good corporate governance, educating members, embedding, and documenting good practice and supporting the promotion of a proactive approach to player welfare and safety. I bring a fresh perspective to the Board as a Chartered Director, Chair of North Stafford Hockey Club and a non-hockey player, in shaping an inclusive culture and effecting a cultural change in the Midlands which complying with the policies of England Hockey. Currently I serve as an Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee at the Valuation Tribunal Service and Chair of the Board and Nominations Committee at Taekwondo Organisation Ltd (TOL). The latter organisation TOL, supports its member bodies and Taekwondo clubs in the delivery of their participation programmes to around 38,000 members, providing an engaging forum to work together on common objectives. Previously I was an Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Committee at Equity Housing and on the Board of Brighter Future Housing Association (where I was also Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee). All of these organisations have reporting responsibilities to government sponsoring departments and/or Regulators and responsibilities which specifically include risk management, fraud awareness, whistleblowing and safeguarding alongside the fiduciary responsibilities as denoted in statute. Working with the founder of ReGen Future Planet, a UK non for profit with a global philanthropic model that works with businesses acting as a positive changemaker since 2019; I am focussed on shaping the strategic direction and providing management oversight on the structure, objectives, culture, and corporate governance arrangements along with risk management. Over the last 18 months, I have been Project Advisor to the Board of British Taekwondo Council Ltd that was shortlisted in the Governance Project of the Year 2022 category of The Chartered Governance Institute. I hold Fellowships at the Institute of Directors (IoD), the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). I am an International Certified Internal Auditor, a Chartered Global Management Accountant (AICPA) and hold a Diploma in Islamic Finance. Recently I have completed a certificate in 'Understanding Mental Health First Aid and Mental Health Advocacy in the Workplace' and am concluding study on 'Equality and Diversity'.

Nominated by: Ian Sutcliffe

Seconded by: Paul Unwin

Governance Director

Name: Paul Smith

A little about Paul Smith:

Until November last year, many of you will have known me as the England Hockey Relationship Manager for the West Midlands region. I held that position for over 10 years and in that time, I got to meet and work with some amazing clubs and their people. That experience has put me in good stead to have an in-depth understanding of the needs of Midlands clubs and their members. I have been a passionate advocate for the grassroots clubs, those that play week in week out, without a care for the National League, or Talent Centres and the like. I feel it is these clubs that are now being overlooked by England Hockey and their overwhelming attention on the elite side of our sport. I believe that these clubs now need their Area Boards more than ever, and as such, I wish to stand for the position of Governance Director and work with the Board and management committee to ensure grassroots clubs are served well. In terms of experience, before my career with England Hockey, I had over 20 years' experience working in the regulatory industry, especially in the compliance and enforcement side of that business. I have significant experience of working within strict regulatory frameworks and ensuring compliance with legislation. I am currently the Compliance & Safeguarding Manager for England Boxing with a major part of that role involving ensuring that their regional committees have robust governance measures in place. I am confident that I can fulfil the requirements of the role for the Board and ensure that grassroots clubs have a voice at the table. Thank you for reading my statement.

Nominated by: Andy Dale

Seconded by: Sukhdev Gill

Candidates for Chair of Committee Roles

The postholders for each of these roles are also members of the Area Management Committee.

Adult Leagues and Competitions

Name: Nick Haynes

A little about Nick Haynes:

In 2003 I took up a role of Divisional Secretary in the 3rd Team Midlands Men's League. After serving my apprenticeship, this followed with me taking over, from Mike Austin, the role of 3rd Team League Secretary. With increased involvement in the League management and introducing further use technology, when Peter Cranswick retired in 2014, I took on the role of Honorary League Secretary. During the next 7 years in this role I shepherded several changes in the Men's League, online fines, online transfers and last but not least the change to an Open League pyramid and of course managed an exceedingly difficult COVID truncated season. A brief summary of my employment before my retirement in 2011. I worked for 43 years in IT, the last 26 for IBM before retired in 2011, most of which was a technical role or project management of implementation of international application rollouts. I was elected to the role of Adult Leagues and Competitions Chair in the new Area organisation in 2021 and re-elected in 2022. I believe I have demonstrated my ability to deliver the largest Area League in the UK and willingness to look at opportunities to strengthen the delivery of both Outdoor and Indoor Hockey in the Midlands. There is still work to be done. I will of course still need plenty of support, not only from other Committee members, but also all the clubs and players. The introduction of the new GMS (Game Management System) has brought challenges and I will continue to work with EH to help provide a more user-friendly experience.

Nominated by: Jules Brooks

Seconded by: Melissa Lau

Junior Competitions and Leagues

Name: Mary Lilliman

A little about Mary Lilliman:

I have been the Clubs Rep for Leicestershire and Rutland Schools and Youth for a number of years and as part of that I set up mini leagues for under 8s, under 10s and under 12s, as at that point there was no playing provision for those age groups. I was also on the Midlands Transition group for junior competitions, and following on from the AGM resolution became the Leicestershire rep on the new Midlands Juniors Leagues and Competitions Committee. I have been doing the role of Junior Leagues and Competitions Chair since December 2022, having taken over part way through the season. Having done the role for part of a season this has given me a good understanding of what is involved in the role, and I would love the opportunity to continue and progress junior hockey in the Midlands further.

Nominated by: Paul Willars

Seconded by: Andy Dale

Officiating

Name: Rob Crosson

Note: Rob has been nominated and elected via the Area Officiating AGM held earlier in the year and is put forward for approval by the members at this AGM.

A little about Rob Crosson:

I was elected as Chair last year and did not realise the size of the task ahead of me. I have spent the year understanding the challenges involved in developing umpires. I believe our key objectives are to recruit and retain more umpires, to improve the standard of all umpires and try to get umpires to enjoy the experience. If we are to be successful, we need to be effective talent spotters and to provide clear role models with a defined pathway for progress. To achieve this, I believe that clubs need to own the issue of recruiting and developing their umpires with the support of Officiating. Do clubs in the Midlands currently do enough to recognise and reward the volunteers who pick up a whistle? We will be developing some initiatives aimed at Club Umpire development during the summer. The feedback from these events will help us to develop a more complete program for the coming season.

Nominated by: Howard Wilson

Seconded by: Colin Jones

Masters

Name: Ajan Reginald

A little about Ajan Reginald:

Over 10 years playing Midlands (Capt O40s, 45s and 50s) and selected for England Masters World Cup, European and Home nations (O35, O40, O45s). Member of Midlands hockey clubs since 1980s for Coventry, Leamington Khalsa, Warwick and Stratford upon Avon hockey club as a Player and coach. More than 20years experience as a company Director and senior executive in public and private companies including my current role as a public company CEO and Director of Roquefort Therapeutics PLC. Chair of the hockey committee at Stratford Hockey Club, Level 3 coach and England Advanced Coach Program.

Nominated by: Ollie Needham

Seconded by: Aaron Nagra

Discipline

(Non-elected position)

Note: This is a skills based role and is therefore a position appointed by the Board in consultation with England Hockey.

Information about Andy is included below for information only and to provide members with a little insight into why he is the current role holder.

Name: Andy Barnes

A little about Andy Barnes:

The following statement is to support my continued appointment as ADA to Midlands Area Hockey and the National Discipline Panel.

From Nottinghamshire I have been associated with Midlands Hockey for 48 years as a player, player coach, team captain, Umpire, Umpire coach and Hockey administrator with Club, County, Region and Area in many roles. I am an England Hockey Technical Official and World Masters Official. I have achieved Level 3 qualification as an Umpire and Umpire Coach.

I have 21 consecutive years of dealing with Hockey Disciplinary issues. 2002 – 2014 I was the Nottinghamshire County Discipline Administrator. In 2014 when I was seconded to cover the then Regional Discipline Administrator (RDA). I became the RDA officially in 2015 and continuously in post until 2021 when I was appointed as the first Area Discipline Administrator (ADA). As RDA and now as ADA I serve on the National Discipline Panel and have been on that Panel now for 9 years as the longest serving member. I have received awards for exceptional service to Barbados Hockey, Midlands Hockey and Blackpool Festival and hope all this experience enables me to bring fairness, understanding but with firm control to the roles of an ADA.