

Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting of North West Hockey Limited held on 4th July 2024 by Video Conference

Attendees:

Chris Reece	(CR)	Chair
Shelagh Everett	(SE)	Vice-Chair
Niall Riley	(NR)	Finance Director
Leighan Bleasdale	(LB)	Governance Director
Wendy McDowall	(WM)	Operations Director
Keith Carder	(KC)	England Hockey Observer
Annette Badger	(AB)	NW AOC Chair
Peter McNulty	(PM)	NWH ADA
Taff Ahmed	(TA)	NWH Social Media Lead
Tony Taig	(TT)	NWH Masters Chair

Attendance

Representatives and members attending (see Annex A).

48 Attendees

40 Clubs were represented.

3 Counties were represented (Cheshire HA, Cumbria HA and Lancashire HA)

1. Welcome and introductions

CR welcomed everyone to the 4th AGM of North West Hockey Ltd (NWH) and introduced Keith Carder attending as the EH Observer.

2. Apologies for Absence and confirmation of Quorum

Apologies were received from: Beth Alvey, NW Junior Chair, Eunice Ellison (Lancashire HA), Tom Heather Preston HC and Mary Bainbridge Wrexham HC.

CR confirmed that the meeting quorum, of 15 voting members attending, had been met with 48 attendees on line at the start of the meeting. This was an excellent turnout and CR thanked everyone attending from Member Club's, Counties, Legacy Members, North West Hockey, non-member Clubs who play in the NW Leagues and Keith Carder England Hockey Head of Sport and NWH AGM Observer for attending.

CR reported one club had Registered their proxy / duly authorised representative in advance of the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

CR reflected on the 3rd full year of operations for NWH and the progress made in delivering hockey under the new structure. The NWH core rolls and structure are now maturing and NWH continue to work with the other 7 areas in England ensuring a shared approach to running hockey. NWH have now extended their delivery to include NW500 (Masters), Indoor Competitions (Super 6s) and State School competitions. CR thanked everyone involved at all levels of the game for their contributions who make hockey happen across the North West.

4. Announcement of Post Holder election results

Following the Nomination Process (as set out in the Area Articles), candidate details and balloting information was shared with members eligible to vote in NWH elections to elect the two Directors to the Board and three Committee Chairs.

Nine clubs have completed the online form Ballot for Post Holders, see ANNEX A

Following the conclusion of the balloting process the following had been duly re-elected and appointed as a Director of NWH:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| • Chris Reece | Chair |
| • Vacant | Vice Chair |

Chris Reece, re-elected (4th Year) Chair alongside: Niall Riley (Finance Director), Leighan Bleasdale (Governance Director) and Wendy McDowall (Operations Director) on the Board of NWH all of whom were previously elected.

Following the conclusion of the balloting process the following had been duly elected and appointed as Chairs of NWH Committees:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| • Vacant | Chair, Adult Competition and League Committee |
| • Tony Taig | Chair, Masters Committee |
| • Annette Badger | Chair, Officiating Committee |
| • Beth Alvey | Chair, Junior Leagues and Competitions |

Thanks also go to Leighan Bleasdale, who has been standing in as Acting Adult League Chair whilst the position remains vacant.

The Board and Committee Chairs form the NW Management Committee along with the appointed role of Area Discipline Administrator, held by Peter McNulty.

5. Minutes of the last AGM held on 6th July 2023

No matters of accuracy were raised.

The Minutes of the 3rd AGM of NWH Ltd were duly proposed by the NWH Board of Directors and seconded by a vote of those members present:

- the Minutes were **APPROVED** (with 2 abstentions), as a true and accurate record of the 3rd AGM held on 6th July 2023.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

6. Review of North West Hockey Ltd 2023-24

CR highlighted the review of NWH for the 2023-24 season (which had been circulated previously) featuring 92 clubs in the North West which cover Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, the Isle of Man and North Wales Clubs.

CR re-affirmed the NWH organisation structure for each committee, including the amount of volunteers needed for each committee. Alongside delivering against the core responsibilities of NWH: Adult and Junior Leagues and Competitions; Masters; Officiating and Discipline, the management committee and Board are continuing work to develop a high level strategic framework for NWH. This aim is to align this work with England Hockey who are undertaking to review it's strategy and NWH's strategy will be developed in 2024-25 with input from Clubs/Members following on from the Clubs Forums held this season. The working themes being used for how we can promote, develop and grow hockey in the North West working with club's and reflecting the EH Equality, Diversity and Inclusion framework.

To provide members with more advance information about the work of North West Hockey. A short summary Annual Report for 2023-24 had been produced and circulated in advance of the meeting. The Annual Report provided a narrative update to support the formal documents shared with the calling notice for the meeting. The presentation will be circulated by email, following the AGM and added as a news article to the NWH website northwest.englandhockey.co.uk

- The Annual report was **NOTED** by the meeting.

7. North West Hockey Ltd Financial Report 2023-24

Niall Riley (NR) NWH Ltd Finance Director presented the financial report. A copy of the North West Hockey Limited Report to the Directors and Unaudited Financial Statements for the Period 1st May 2023 to 30th April 2024 was provided to members with the calling notice for the meeting.

NR provided a summary of the financial position to the meeting, explaining that NWH has moved to Xero Accounting to manage our book keeping and financial activities, supported by our appointed independent accountants. This has reduced our book keeping costs and improved the control and management of our finances.

The key highlights were reported by NR:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Operating Income | £58,797 |
| • Operating Costs | £51,871 |
| • Surplus on the year | £6,926 (mainly from fines) |
| • Ring-fenced reserves from dissolved associations 30April 2024 | £118,727 |

The funds transferred from dissolved associations were transferred to NWH on the proviso that they were ringfenced and used for specific activities linked in part to their original source. How the funds would be used would be an integral part of developing the NWH Strategy and prioritises.

NR confirmed that the Financial Statement had been independently scrutinised and had been approved by the Board and submitted to Companies House. We are exempt from Corporation Tax; however, tax is payable on Interest received on the Reserves.

The meeting:

- **NOTED** the Report to Directors and Unaudited Financial Statements for the period 1st May 2023 to 30th April 2024
- **NOTED** the Independent Scrutineer's report on North West Hockey Ltd

CR thanks NR for his work managing the NW finances.

8. Resolutions - Membership Subscriptions and Fees for 2023-24

- Having reviewed our 2023-24 Accounts, for 2024-25 we are proposing the following:

8.1 Membership Subscription for 2023 – 24:

North West Hockey Ltd Board and Management Committee proposed:

- For full voting Member Clubs that the annual Subscription for 2024-25 to be a member of North West Hockey Ltd shall be £20.50 per senior team (an increase of £3.00 on 23/24).
- For Counties (Sub Areas) and other Organisations, the proposal for Subscriptions for 2024-25 shall be set at zero (no change to 2023-24)

The Resolution was put to the meeting and:

- **CARRIED with 31 voted in favour, 2 against, 1 absention**

8.2 Entry Fees for North West Hockey Competitions and Leagues for 2024-25:

North West Hockey Ltd Board and Management Committee proposed:

- For Clubs entering the North West Adult Competitions and leagues the annual entry fee of £7.50 per 2024-25 per senior team (decrease of £3.50 on 2023-24 Subs). Please note, this includes Development Teams as in last season 23/24.
- That entry fees for all other competitions (including Juniors and Masters) shall be set by the Directors on the recommendation of the relevant Committee and if required informal consultation with member clubs

The Resolution was put to the meeting and:

- **CARRIED with 29 votes in favour and none against**

9. Appointed Umpire Fees

The meeting **NOTED**:

- That the North West Hockey Ltd Board and Management Committee had approved that the fee paid by Clubs where umpires are appointed by North West Hockey shall be £26.50 per appointment for 2023-24 (no change from 2023-24 fees)

10. North West Hockey Growth Fund

As part of our Area Strategy, we are delighted to officially announce the North West Hockey Growth Fund. Clubs can apply for funding for/towards specific projects:

Types of projects which could be taken into consideration are:

- Junior development
- Equipment
- Officiating development courses
- Flyerz hockey
- Schools outreach
- Umpire radios, of which Clubs will be able to apply for, (limited to one set per Club).

11. Adult League and Competitions - See slide 26 & 27 of Presentation

Leighan Bleasdale (LD), Acting Adult League and Competition Chair provided a short update on the Adult League Structure including:

We will also be hosting an online Clubs Forum in September with all the new regulations for all Captains.

Anyone interested in the ALMC Chair vacancy, please contact Wendy McDowall at operations@northwesthockey.co.uk

12. Junior Leagues and Competitions – See slide 28 & 29 of Presentation

CR reported on behalf of Beth Alvey, Junior League Chair with key dates for Junior League and Competitions.

13. NW Officiating - See slide 30 & 31 of Presentation

Annette Badger highlighted the need to develop club umpires and young umpires and the need to improve the quality of umpiring within the region.

14. Masters – See slide 32 of Presentation

highlighted the need to make Masters more accessible to all.

Tony Taig

15. EH Awards 2024

Congratulations to those recognised at this year's England Hockey Awards 2024:

Winners: Macclesfield M1 (Men's Team of the Year), Kirkby Lonsdale W1 (Women's Team of the Year)

NW Club Successes/Recognition 2024

EH National League

Men's Division 1 (North) - Champions Bowdon M1 promoted to EHL Premier Division

Promoted from NW Premier Divisions back to EHL Conference North - Didsbury Northern M1 and Alderley Edge W1

EH Clubs Championship (Adult) -Mixed Tier 2 Champions - Neston Mixed

Masters Over 60 Tier 2 Champions - Bowdon

Womens Over 35 Tier 1 Runners Up - Didsbury Northern WO35s

Women's Tier 4 Runners Up - Preston W2

EH Clubs Championships (Junior)
U18 Tier 2 Plate Runners Up - Preston
U16 Boys Shield Champions - Deeside Ramblers
U16 Girls Tier 1 Runners Up - Timperley
U16 Tier 1 Plate Final - Runners Up - Alderley Edge
U16 Tier 1 Vase - Runners Up – Chester
U14 Tier 2 Plate Champions – Timperley

EH Schools Championships
U18 Boys Tier 2 - Runners Up - Altrincham Grammar School for Boy
U14 Girls State Schools Tier 3 Champions – Cowley International School

16. NW Strategy to 2028 CR outlined the following: (see slides 37,38 and 39)

A strategy for the sport to 2028 – mission and vision

VISION - Creating A Future For Our Game Together

A Strategy For The Sport To 2028

MISSION - *Let's shout about hockey. Let's...*

WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE HOCKEY

MORE VISIBLE, RELEVAN T AND

ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

AOB - There were no matters of AOB raised 14 days before the meeting.

The Chair thanked members and Clubs for their attendance and commitment to hockey at all levels across the North West.

The meeting closed at 20:10 hours

ANNEX A – 2024 AGM ATTENDEES

Participants	Club/Association
Keith Carder	EH (Observer)
Chris Reece	Chair NW Board
Leighan Bleasdale	Governance Director NW Board and Acting ALMC Chair & Lancaster HC
Niall Riley	Finance Director NW Board
Shelagh Everett	Vice Chair NW Board & Timperley HC
Wendy McDowall	Operations Director NW Board & Northern HC
Peter McNulty	NW Area Discipline NW Hockey & Bebington HC
Annette Badger	Chair NW AOC
Taff Ahmed	Social Media Lead NW MC & Southport HC
Tony Taig	Masters Chair NWH & Winnington Park HC
James Riley	Alderley Edge
Rhian Culley	Bangor City
Artie Senior	Bebington/Cheshire HA
Phil Meachin	Bolton
Jez Allen	Bowdon
Julie Kenyon	Brookfield Hockey Club
Oliver Parry	Brooklands MU
Clare Thompson	Clitheroe Blackburn Northern
Brian Tenner	Deeside Ramblers
Lynsey Wilson	Didsbury Greys
Rachel Peynado/Ali Cordrey	Didsbury Northern
Simon Wilson	Eirias
Fran Loffler-Thompson	Fylde and Lancashire HA
Charles Jackman	Garstang
Ian Chapman	Garstang
Paul Yates	Golborne
Matt Kerslake	Kirby Lonsdale
Gill Cussons	Liverpool Sefton
Amy Couture	Lymm HC
Jess Duffy	Macclesfield
Rachael Melvin	Manchester Moss Park
Laura Paul	Neston
Simone McCaskill/ Charlotte Dunham	Northern
Laurie Boon	Oldham
Ali Mealor	Oxton
Rob Clarkin	Prescot
Stuart Dearden	Rochdale
Steph Woodstock/ Tom Yates	Runcorn

Nick Davey	Sedburgh
Alex Lilleyman	South Lakes
John Graham	St Helens
Shelagh Everett	Timperley
Chris Regan	Ulverston Hockey Club
Gemma Booth	Urmston
Thomas Lloyd	Warrington
Richard Belk	Windermere Hockey Club

ANNEX A

Chair (Director): Chris Reece	Vice Chair (Director): Annette Badger	Chair Masters: Tony Taig	Chair: Adult League & Competitions Committee: Leighan Bleasdale	Chair: Junior League & Competitions Committee: Beth Alvey	Chair Officiating: Annette Badger
For	For	For	For	For	For
For	For	For	For	For	For
For	For	For	For	For	Abstain
For	For	For	For	For	For
For	For	For	For	For	For
For	For	For	For	For	For
For	For	For	For	For	For
For	For	For	For	For	For
For	For	For	For	For	For