



MIDLANDS HOCKEY

Company number 11511997

AGM

Meeting Date: 17th July 2024

Online via Teams: 19:30

ACTIONS

Present at the meeting

Tim Lorimer (**TL** – Chair), Joanne Kennedy-Reardon (**JKR** – Governance Director), Stuart Clark (**SC** – Operations Director), Jeevan Chagger (JC - ED&I Lead), Rich Beer (**RB** – England Hockey).

A full list of attending members can be found in Appendix 1.

Apologies

Claire Wright (Finance Director), Norman Stott (Life Member), Colin Barthorpe (Life Member), Gabi Brown (Area Administrator), Andy Barnes (ADA), Andrew Megginson & Dave Standish (Leicester HC), Raj Manku (Derby Ramgarhia HC), Rachael Hewitt (Grammarians Ladies HC), Adam George (Nottingham HC), Ellie Edwards (Ashborne HC), Clare Shawcross (Manning HC), Becky Florida-Hopson (Sutton Coldfield HC), Raj Grewal (Sikh Union Coventry HC), Dave Cosgrove (Beacon HC), Peter Allett (Oundle HC), Paul Unwin (North Notts HC), Izzy Shelley (University of Birmingham Women's HC), Sam Cook (Half Century Ladies HC), Katie Brough (Olton HC), Charlie Bridgeford (Wellingborough HC), Johnny Hie (Charnwood Forest HC), Samantha Wade (Newark HC).

Minutes from the last meeting/Matters Arising

Last AGM was held on 5th July 2023 via Teams. Minutes have been approved by the Directors and posted on the website in advance of this meeting and are duly noted.

Chair's Report

A full report from **TL** can be found in Appendix 2.

Director Updates – Finance

A summary of the accounts can be found in Appendix 3. These accounts will be approved in due course by the Directors and uploaded to the Midlands Hockey website.

There is a vacancy for an independent scrutineer.

JKR noted that the deficits visible on the accounts are managed, to sensibly and fairly reduce the level of reserves that Midlands have built up in the past.

CW welcomed any questions on the accounts – please contact areaadmin@midlands.hockey

Director Updates – Governance

JKR informed members that she is leading a project to develop the Midlands Hockey strategy. This is a 5-year plan with measurable objectives that informs the direction of Midlands Hockey.

JKR advised the group that the next step in the formation of the strategy is consult with all those connected to Midlands Hockey through the formulation of a task and finish group and consultation survey over the next 3 months. The strategy is planned to be finalised by the end of 2024 with the involvement of focus groups.

- Volunteers are sought for the task and finish groups and focus groups. Should anyone wish to volunteer please contact either areaadmin@midlands.hockey or governance@midlands.hockey.

TL noted that the strategy will be a working document with Key Performance Indicators to monitor real progress in real time. **TL** stressed the importance of hearing all voices to help inform the direction of Midlands Hockey over the next 5 years.

Announcement of Postholder Elections

There were 2 vacancies on the Board. Claire Wright (proposed Stephen Tabb, seconded Nick Haynes) was duly elected as Finance Director by an online vote prior to the meeting. The other post, Vice Chair, remains vacant.

The following Lead Committee Chairs had been nominated and seconded and were duly elected by an online vote prior to the meeting:

- Adult Leagues and Competitions: Nick Haynes (Proposed: Simeon Green, Seconded: Jo Bevan)
- Junior Leagues and Competitions: Mary Lilliman (Proposed: Andy Dale, Seconded: Nick Haynes)
- Officiating: Rob Crosson (Proposed: Howard Wilson, Seconded: Colin Jones)
- Masters: Ajan Reginald (Proposed: Ben Lanoe, Seconded: Aaron Nagra).

On the night voting

Votes were gathered for several proposals via an online poll system. Votes have been verified and the results are as follows:

Membership Subscription Fees:

For Voting Member Clubs, the proposal for Subscriptions shall be £10.00 per adult league team

For voting Junior or Occasional Clubs, the proposal for Subscriptions shall be £10.00 per club

For the EHO the proposal for Subscriptions to be set at zero

For Sub-Areas and other Organisations, the proposal for Subscriptions to be set at zero

These were passed unanimously.

Competition and League fees:

Entry for Midlands Adult Leagues will be set at £20.00** per team

Appointment fee for officials appointed to Midlands Adult league matches will be set at £20.00 per official

Entry fee for the Midlands Adult Indoor Hockey Finals Tournament will be set at £100.00 per team

Entry fee for the Midlands Junior Club League will be set at £20.00 per team

It is proposed that all other fees for all other competitions and events be set by the Directors following informal consultation with the relevant lead committee(s).

**The Directors intend applying a £5.00 discount to this rate.

These were passed unanimously.

Surplus funds raised by Adult League Fines:

The Midlands Area has collected a significant amount of funds raised via fines issues by the Adult Leagues Management Committee during the 23/24 season. This surplus can be strategically repurposed and could greatly benefit hockey in the Midlands.

Examples of the initiatives the Company may want to support are:

Umpires/Officiating Development

State School Competition

GMS Education

The proposal is that monies generated by these fines can be used at the board's discretion to support hockey in the Midlands Area.

This was passed unanimously.

Matlock Baileans HC suggested another use of this money could be to send some coaches into schools to drive recruitment and engagement.

Launch of the Midlands Hockey Youth Support Trust

TL provided an overview of the Governance of the workings of the Trust and reasons for the delay in the launch of this Trust. TL noted that there was a large sum of money (c. £80k) that forms the basis of this Trust. TL noted the one-page application form will be on the website where clubs can apply for grants of between £300-£1000 of to aid junior hockey development. One application will be accepted per club, every 12 months. For the moment, only clubs with certified ClubMark status will be eligible to apply.

TL urged clubs who do not have clubmark and wish to apply for clubmark status, contact Charlie Farrow (charlie.farrow@englandhockey.co.uk).

Jeanne Freeman (Life Member) thanked all those involved for getting this Trust launched.

AOB

Non notified.

TL expressed a final thanks to all for attending and contributing.

Meeting closed: 20:08

Appendix 1: List of Registered Attendees & Affiliations

Name	Affiliation
Laurie Alcock	Life Member
John Arris	Nottingham Players HC
Jo Bevan	Market Harborough HC
Emma Brackett	Arnold Ladies HC
Angela Briggs	Warwick HC
Mike Calverley	Stone HC
Nicola Camfield	Matlock Baileans HC
Jeevan Chagger	City of Birmingham HC
Sharon Cheetham	West Bridgford HC
Sarah Cross	Earls Barton Ladies HC
Rob Crosson	Officiating Chair
Laura Day	Ilkeston Ladies HC
Ann Fairbrother	Boots HC
Aaron Fielder	Newport HC
Jeanne Freeman	Life Member
Hannah Gildart	Uttoxeter HC
Emma Greatrex	Stafford HC
Simeon Green	Beeston HC
John Harrison	Old Silhillians HC
Nick Haynes	Adult Leagues & Competitions Chair
Kathryn Hickey	Arnold Ladies HC
Duncan Hughes	Finchfield HC
Anna Humphreys	Edgbaston HC
Kate Kitson	Bloxwich HC
Mark Lamb	Belper HC
Connor Lennon	Bournville & Kings Heath HC
Izzy Leyshon	Keele University Women's HC
Simon Litchfield	Ashby HC
Ali McQuillan	Melton HC
Paul Merrell	Worcester HC
Teresa Moss	Stourport HC
Alan Parnham	Telford & Wrekin HC
Hettie Pigott	Cannock HC
Emily Randle	Wyre Forest HC
Helen Rhodes	Charnwood Sileby Ladies
Chris Rielly	Loughborough Town HC
Polly Roberts	Towcester HC
Tom Roberts	Midlands Hockey ADA
Kishor Shah	Adult Leagues and Competitions Committee Member
Karen Standen	Findern Ladies HC
Stephen Tabb	Warwickshire HC
Dalraj Tamber	Derby HC

Chris Todd	Woodlands HC
Dave Washington	North Stafford HC

Appendix 2: Chair's Report:

Good evening and welcome to the fourth Midlands Hockey Ltd AGM. All the activities that Midlands Hockey oversee would not happen without the vast number of volunteers within Clubs, Counties, Area committees and the Midlands board. I would like at the start of this report to acknowledge that and thank each and everyone who takes responsibility for some area of Hockey. One of the main objectives that the board constantly works towards is participation which could be as a player in any form of Hockey or official, and I include parents and carers in this, you don't appreciate how important your roles are in getting our Juniors to wherever they have to be, sometimes 2 or 3 times per week.

Each year I report that we have had issues with GMS, I would hope that you have seen an improvement in the performance during the season. One action EH have taken is setting up a dedicated working group which is prioritising the main issues of concern and Midlands is represented on that group.

Let me now mention a few things around the Committees.

Firstly, the Adult League and Competitions. Nick and his team have over the past 15 months or so spent an enormous amount of time in finally restructuring the Women's League to what it will look like from this forthcoming season. I know several clubs have given their input and thank you for that. Whatever the structure is will not suit everyone, but I believe the league Committee have come up with a structure that works for all, and we need to acknowledge the time and effort this Committee has put in to get us where we are.

We have lost one club from last season but encouragingly we have around 14 teams who were development sides last season now moving up into the league structure. We have also gained several new teams into the league and some additional development teams. The overall number of teams is down by only 6 in a total of over 630 teams. Thank you for the work you as clubs do to try to both maintain and increase your playing membership. We have also seen some mergers. Welcome to Leadenham who have joined Midlands from YNE. Congratulations to all teams winning promotion, particularly to Repton 1 Mens, Loughborough Students 2 Women who have both been promoted to the National League.

A worry though is the number of fines - 991 that have been issued for Breaches of Regulations. In Nicks Newsletter he has broken these down as to the most common offences. Midlands Hockey really wants to get these figures down and hopefully the guidance cards that clubs have been sent will help you in ensuring you are completing the admin correctly. Please though speak with your divisional secretaries if you are having trouble, if they know about it you might not get fined! We would welcome any ideas on how you think we can improve weekly admin issues. Please let the Adults League Committee have your ideas.

Another area of concern is the lack of teams wanting to participate in the Midlands Indoor Competition and the lack of response we had to the survey sent out asking for Club's views. Midlands does not want to stop Indoor, but we do need more support from Clubs. To make it viable for Competitors and Midlands.

Moving on to Junior Leagues and Competitions which has again seen increases in the number of clubs entering competitions for the first time. This is great but causes increased pressure on the volunteers who run these competitions, if you can help in any way, please let us know.

Following the success last year of our inaugural State School festival we ran two during the season, at Loughborough and Worcester. We had around 15 schools at each event and one thing we discovered was a number of these schools do play Hockey and have games against other local schools. This is an area we would like to explore further but again at the moment we do not have the resource to do that. We also had 21 Midlands state schools compete in the National Finals held at the Nottingham Hockey Centre.

As well as the state school activity we have run the Schools and Club age group tournaments together with In2 hockey at County and Midlands levels.

The officiating committee have worked hard during the past year in upskilling existing umpires and providing opportunities to young umpires to develop their skills, resulting in 18 young umpires officiating at the Midlands In2 Hockey finals, six of whom were nominated to officiate at the National Finals, unfortunately due to exams only 2 were able to go.

We began the rollout of the Club Umpire Training Events (CUTE) which is being led by Andy Barnes and fully funded by Midlands using some of the money generated by adult league fines as agreed at last year's AGM. One session took place last summer at the Nottingham Hockey Centre and there are more planned for this summer at Lilleshall, Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

The officiating committee has seen some new members join and this coming season will be engaging more with clubs to find out what it is you need to help in developing new and existing officials.

I am pleased to see that there has been a reduction in the number of red cards from 40-34 in the Midlands, but this is still higher than 2020/21 season.

Not so good is over a 100% increase in disreputes with Midlands having 20 which equates to 24% of all disreputes in the country. More work needs to be done to improve the relationship between players and Umpires. We are still losing Umpires due to the behaviour of players.

Masters continues to grow, and we were able to field teams in all the age categories for the Area Tournaments except for WO35's. However, Midlands is behind many areas in the total Masters offering available. The organisation of Masters Hockey in the Midlands rests with a committee of 1 (The Masters chair) and the squad Captains and Coaches. This needs to change and more people need to help in driving Masters Hockey forward in the Midlands. We will be arranging a Teams meeting soon and would hope that at least one representative from each of the squads will attend and anyone else who is interested in driving Masters Hockey.

Congratulations to all those players and officials who have been selected for the Masters World Cups in South Africa and New Zealand. I know that some of the players in the Olympic squads have Midlands connections and we wish you well in Paris. Equally congratulations to the Midlands players selected for the age group internationals. Also, to those winners at the EH awards recently and those who received of the Laurie Alcock awards

For those of you standing for a position within your club for the first time the best of luck and thank you for taking up your elected roles. I would like to formally welcome Jeevan Chagger who has joined Midlands Hockey Ltd as ED&I lead. Jeevan has a wealth of experience in this field having sat on the EH ED&I working group and is currently ED&I lead for Hockey Wales. A big thank you to those who have stood down, I am sure your clubs have appreciated the work you have done.

We do need more people to assist in the running of Hockey in the Midlands. All of us are working hard on your behalf and each year there are more demands on our time and we are not able to do everything you as members would like us to do, so as in previous years please think if you can help from Director level to assisting on one of the committees. We have vacancies as main and non-exec board roles, a scrutineer, divisional secretaries, Junior and Masters committee members. I would ask that you all consider if you could help in any way and please speak to either the Committee chairs or myself to answer any questions all contact details are on the Midlands hockey website.

Good luck for the forthcoming season.

Thank you

Midlands Hockey Ltd

DRAFT Detailed Accounts for Directors and Lead Committees 2023/24

	Directors/ Management/ Discipline	Adult Leagues & Competitions	Junior Leagues & Competitions	Area Officiating	Area Masters Hockey	Total 23/24
Income						
Membership Fees	£4,913					£4,913
Discipline Fees/Fines		£5,825				£5,825
Entry Fees - Outdoor		£6,320	£11,730		£12,558	£30,608
Entry Fees - Indoor		£1,480	£6,900			£8,380
Officiating Fees - AL&C		£19,480				£19,480
EHO Member Contribution Area Split				£1,037		£1,037
Officiating Fees - BUCS				£3,015		£3,015
Officiating Fees - Other				£1,800		£1,800
Accruals for Invoices Due			£10,857			£10,857
Misc Other				1998.98		£1,998
Total Income	£4,913	£33,105	£29,487	£7,851	£12,558	£87,914

Midlands Hockey Ltd

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	Directors/ Management/ Discipline	Adult Leagues & Competitions	Junior Leagues & Competitions	Area Officiating	Area Masters Hockey	Total 23/24
Expenditure						
EH Membership+	£890					£890
EH Membership elements cross-charged to Lead Committees		£800	£100	£800	£50	£1,750
Software (MS 365 Teams & Quickbooks)	£980	£310	£62	£310	£358	£2,021
Entry Fees					£2,535	£2,535
Awards	£233	£3,472	£2,609		£602	£6,916
Officiating - Outdoor		£24,483	£1,915	£12,134	£1,027	£39,559
Pitch Hire - Outdoor			£19,669		£7,872	£27,541
Indoor Pitch & Officiating		£2,864	£8,503			£11,367
EHO Member Benefits				£927		£927
Administrators	£5,355		£3,969			£9,324
Admin Costs incl meetings	£4,133	£2,115	£330	£673	£2,524	£9,776
Payments to Statutory Bodies	£876					£876
Total Expenditure	£12,468	£34,044	£37,157	£14,845	£14,968	£113,482

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	Directors/ Management/ Discipline	Adult Leagues & Competitions	Junior Leagues & Competitions	Area Officiating	Area Masters Hockey	Total 23/24
Other Income/Expenditure						
Appeal Deposits	£200					£200
Savings Account Interest	£452					£452
Surplus/Deficit	-£6,904	-£939	-£7,669	-£6,994	-£2,409	-£24,915
Start of Year Reserves at 01/05/2023	£22,723	£28,744	£92	£69,483	-£2,534	£118,507
Mid-Year additions to Reserves	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Surplus/Deficit changes to Reserves	-£6,904	-£939	-£7,669	-£6,994	-£2,409	-£24,915
End of Year Reserves at 30/04/2024	£15,819	£27,805	-£7,577	£62,488	-£4,943	£93,592