



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024		
Date:	Tuesday 8 July 2025	
Time:	19:00	
Location:	Virtual	
Chair:	David Chard	
Attendees:	<p>West Hockey & Counties David Chard (West Chair) Liz Powell (West Vice Chair & Avon HA) Keith Dingle (West Operations) Bridgette Jones (West Finance) Caroline Baynes (West Governance & Wiltshire HA) Jan Bowen (West Director Co-opted & Adult Competitions & Old Bristolians HC) Matt Johnson (West Director Co-opted) Anne Baker (West Junior Competitions & Devon HA) Debs Gemmell (West Masters & Yeovil & Sherborne HC) Lesley Love (Discipline) Charles Hallows (EHO West) Barbara Reynolds (England Hockey & Penzance HC) Keith Carder (England Hockey) Susie Stone (Dorset HA & Weymouth HC) Michael Harvey (Dorset HA) Alison Cook (Herefordshire HA) Lucie Archer (Gloucestershire HA & Hockey Fever HC) Jan Baker (Hon Life Member & Salisbury HC) David Lilywhite (EHO West)</p> <p>Member Clubs BAC HC (Maz Wilson) Badminton & Pucklechurch HC (Kirsty Chaney) Bourton & Sherborne HC (James Marriot) Bridgwater HC (Annabelle Jay)</p>	<p>Bristol Bluebirds HC (Hayley Hodges) Bude HC (Jo Timmins) Caradon HC (Anna Gubbins & Alex Maudsley) Cheddar Valley Youth HC (Ros Tyson) City of Bath HC (James Hills) CSM HC (Henry Dempster) Culm Valley Hornets HC (Bryony) Dart HC (Jen Gaywood) Devizes HC (D North) Devonport Services HC (Dizzy Gillespie) Dursley HC (Aleisha Stockley & Stacey Sealey) Exeter HC (Emma Hulme) Exeter Uni Hc (Will Rouget) Firebrands HC (Val Shipsey) Frome HC (Bethan Riddick) Gillingham HC (Dee Webb) Isca HC (Finlay Jones) Marlborough HC (Louisa Gostling) Nailsea HC (Paul Westgate) North Devon HC (Ash Thorne) North Somerset HC (Clive Hawkins) Ocean City HC (Steve Brown) Okehampton HC (Pete Sim) Old Bristolians HC (Nick Stibbs) Plymouth Lions HC (Hannah Bagshaw-Bale) Royal Wootton Bassett HC (Suzanne Coles) St Austell HC (Deb Hocking) Swindon HC (Nathan Sutton) Taunton Civil Service HC (Malcolm</p>



	Pressly-Smith) Taunton Vale HC (Bronwen Seeger) Tavistock HC (Mark Gott) Team Bath Buccs HC (Jo McDermid) Torbay HC (Malcolm Woodward) Truro HC (Melissa Casey) Westberries HC (Sarah Watts)	Westbury & Utd Banks HC (Alan Sparks) Wick HC (Jen Clark) Winscombe HC (Charlie) Wotton-under-Edge HC (Steve Hardman) Yate HC (Mike Chaney)
Apologies:	Brockworth Badgers HC, Cheltenham HC, Chippenham HC, Newquay HC, Shepton Mallet HC, Sidmouth & Ottery HC & Steve Hamey (West EHO)	

AGM MINUTES
1. Introduction & Chair's Welcome (DC)
Welcomed all to the AGM and outlined the agenda.
2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM held on 9 July 2024
<p>The minutes had been circulated and taken as read.</p> <p>DC confirmed the minutes of the West Hockey AGM held on 9 July 2024 would be confirmed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting unless any objections to this were forthcoming.</p> <p>No objections were forthcoming.</p> <p>Proposed – Bronwen Seeger Seconded – Jan Baker</p>
3. Director Report
<p>David Chard Chair of West Hockey read the Director Report at the meeting.</p> <p>The Board and Management Committee have met on numerous occasions throughout the season, alongside national meetings where West Hockey is represented at the ASC and has the chance to speak directly to EH directors. Your management committees also have national meetings with their counterparts from other areas and EH.</p> <p>We will be presenting a number of slides later in the evening which will outline areas where the Board and your committees have been working to implement the strategy released last year and so for a Directors report I'd largely like to focus on a number of thank-you's and to reflect on the passing of a couple of West stalwarts. Firstly our condolences go to Jan Baker who has done so much for the area over the years and who sadly lost Chuck this year. Another very sad loss was the death of Pete Hammond, who did so much for officiating over the years, on top of being a thoroughly 'nice bloke'</p> <p>The thank you's extend far and wide, firstly to the Board of Directors and Management Committee, all of whom are volunteers and give hundreds of hours to our sport. I was unexpectedly seriously ill at the start of this season, which hopefully most of you will have no</p>

idea about, purely because of the competency of my fellow directors, who immediately filled any voids and went above and beyond to make sure the Board ran as smoothly as possible. Secondly, I'd like to thank all of you here tonight, the majority leaders in your clubs and officials, along with those who work for the county's, and without you, our beloved sport of hockey would just not happen.

The board will be instigating a number of initiatives in the coming season, not least of which will be clamp down on dissent, both on and off the pitch. We will be in touch nearer the start of the season with details, but hope you will help us share the message of Nigel Owen's when he states 'come on, this isn't soccer'. Let's support our officials and stamp out dissent together.

In closing, we'd like to offer congratulations to Richard Beer who has recently been promoted to role of CEO for EH amongst stiff competition. At West we offer Rich our full support and best wishes.

Reports are available on the West Hockey website along with the AGM presentation including West Strategy progress and all Lead Committee Reports.

<https://west.englishhockey.co.uk/about-west-hockey/documents-policies/agm-documents>

4. Announcement of results of the election of Directors & Lead Committee Chairs

Following the members electronic ballot, the following Directors and Chairs of Lead Committees have been elected.

Directors

West Chair – David Chard (re-elected)

West Vice Chair – Liz Powell (re-elected)

West Finance – Bridgette Jones (re-elected)

Weighted vote results were 40 votes Bridgette Jones – Val Shipsey 18 votes

West Governance – Caroline Baynes (re-elected)

West Operations – Keith Dingle (re-elected)

Lead Committee Chairs

Adult Competitions – Jan Bowen (re-elected)

Junior Competitions – Anne Baker (re-elected)

Masters – Debs Gemmell (re-elected)

Officiating – Steve Hamey

Discipline – Lesley Love (re-appointed by Board)

All role descriptions and an Expression of Interest form are available on the West website, for people who are interested in any West Hockey position including roles in the Lead Committees;

<https://west.englishhockey.co.uk/about-west-hockey/vacancies>



5. Finance Director's Presentation of the Financial Report and Accounts

Bridgette Jones, Finance Director read the Finance Report and gave an overview of the West Hockey Ltd accounts.

West Hockey Ltd is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Co. Act 2006.

Copies are available publicly at <https://www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company>

6. The Independent Scrutineer's report on the Company

The Statutory Accounts to 30 April 2024 were filed at Companies House on 15 January 2025 after examination by Peter Hodge.

7. The Proposal for Membership Fees

West Membership Fees have been set at £10.00 per team for the 2025/26 season.

8. The Proposal for entry fees for Competitions and Leagues

All competition fees to be set by appropriate league and competition committees in consultation with the Company Directors.

West Adult League fees have been set at £25 per team.

9. AOB

One matter was raised prior to the meeting.

- Non-elected Directors (Alison Cook, Herefordshire HA)

Been in contact with CB over this matter; The concern is the perceived lack of transparency surrounding co-option of Directors.

AC 'I applaud the decision that all five directors are required to stand for re-election each year, but those co-opted do not have to go through this process and so do not have to be approved by the membership. They, therefore, have absolute 'job security' compared to the main Directors. The membership is never made aware the Board wishes to co-opt and once that appointment is made, the membership never has an opportunity to ratify, or otherwise, that appointment. This is totally at variance with the process in place for the elected Directors'.

CB This is an unintended consequence of our Directors all standing for re-election annually, despite the articles not requiring this. No capacity to change Articles by EH, where this point has been raised for review. Board have directive to co-opt based on skill sets – Jan Bowen (strategy) and Matt (cover Dave's illness and commercial expertise).

Board co-opt at first Directors meeting after AGM. Nomination process is open and the West encourages new people to get involved. CB to follow up with Alison Cook post AGM.



AOB raised at the meeting;

- *University fixtures date changes – yes changes can be made in discussion with opposition and divisional secretary to change the date if they fall in student holiday time. We ask all clubs to be open to changing the fixture date.*

Meeting closed at 20.00