



Sheffield & Sandy Hockey Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

12th April 2008

Sandy Upper School - Classroom of the Future – 1.30pm

Present: Hannah Bartram (Chair), Tony Payne (Treasurer), Sharon Ephgrave (Club Secretary), Mike Tipper (Fixtures / Umpires Secretary), Cheryll Whaley (Social Secretary), Matthew Wilson, Adam Seward, Kirsten Rayner, Liz Infield, Sarah Cullip, Denise Alexander, Tina Fury, Daz Hepburn, Rob Glover, Dianne Tipper, Steve Bowers, Steve West, Kevin Wilson, Andy Cusack, Gully, Martin Byers, Kath Wilson, Julie Barnes

Apologies: Only received from Liz Orbell.

1. Welcome by the Chair

Hannah welcomed those present and confirmed that the attendance was the highest for a couple of years and thanked everyone for their efforts to attend.

2. Appointment of Tellers

Diane Tipper and Gully volunteered to stand as Tellers for the purpose of the meeting.

3. Chair's report

The past year

The 07/08 season found S&S once again fielding 5 mens and 4 ladies teams. It was a season of mixed fortunes for both sides of the Club. Whilst the Mens 2s finally won promotion, Mens 1s and 4s are coming back down and Mens 3s stay put. The Vets did very well to finish 2nd in a competitive league. In the ladies section, Ladies 2s finished highest out of the 4 teams, but all finished mid-table and consequently remain in the same leagues for next season.

Some highlights

- **Juniors** – the junior section has grown from strength to strength, with 30 odd youngsters turning up every week. We have seen some good junior players coming into the senior teams.
- **Social events** - we organised a summer BBQ in August, and the Quiz Night in February. This season's End of Season party is, of course, this evening with almost 100 people attending.
- **Mixed hockey** - The Mixed Team's progress through the England Hockey Mixed Plate continues! We are now in the last 16, with the next game at home on 20th April.
- **Website** - The website continues to be improved. This, and e-mail, are now the main communication tools for the Club.



- **Clubs First** - We are making steady progress towards achieving *Clubs First*, the England Hockey accreditation scheme for Clubs. Most of the requirements are simply good practice and we do them anyway - Clubs First ensures we formalise and record what we do in a logical way e.g. child protection policies.

Future challenges

Volunteers

- A key challenge for the forthcoming season is recruiting new Committee members and other volunteers to help the Club run smoothly. As you will be aware, we still need several new Committee members plus Mens Team Captains. The more people that help out, the less onerous each task becomes!
- I would like to extend a big thank you to Sharon, who is stepping down as Minutes Secretary, and to the remaining Committee members and others that help keep the Club going. A lot of work goes on unnoticed behind the scenes, and often unappreciated, so can I take this opportunity on behalf of the Club to thank all those that contribute.

Juniors

- Developing the junior section of the Club is critical, as many of these players then move into senior teams. We urgently need someone to take on the role of Junior Hockey Co-ordinator, as Steve West is no longer able to continue in this role.
- We also need to identify someone who will act as the Club Child Welfare Officer.
- We are planning to arrange more inter-Club matches for juniors, as this gives them an opportunity to practice their developing skills, particularly when U13 are not allowed to play in league games.

Seniors

- We are organising a local 'Get back into hockey' initiative during August. This is part of a national campaign to get people back into sport, and we are in the process of securing funding. If anyone is interested in volunteering – as a coach or assistant – please let the Committee know.
- A continual issue is securing umpires. The Tippers doing a sterling job every week sorting out umpires, but are always looking for more people who can help. The Club is prepared to subsidise people through the Level 1 umpiring course as long as they commit to umpiring in the future.
- The Club is also prepared to subsidise people through the Level 1 coaching course. We are putting 2 people through the course running in June, but we do need more coaches in the Club, both Level 1 and 2.
- In the future, should they secure promotion, Ladies 1s will be affiliated to the East League rather than the Midlands. This will significantly reduce travelling times and costs for both players and umpires, whilst retaining a high quality of hockey.
- The Club has benefited on several occasions in the past from sponsorship, and we are keen to retain and expand this where possible.

4. Treasurer's report



07/08 Highlights

Accounts will not be finalised until May at the earliest, so the following summary is estimated based on figures to date.

Overall

- I'm anticipating the 07/08 accounts to show a deficit of just c£1100 for the year, about £700 greater than the budget expected, leaving us with an expected balance of c2700 at the end of the season. This is consistent with our plan to reduce the size of our bank balance to an appropriate level after it peaked at around £7K at the end of 05/06

Expenditure

Expenditure is expected to be close to £1800 over budget

- Teas cover the majority of this, with £700 carried over from last season due to late invoicing by the Sports Centre and an increase in how much we're charged for the teas themselves (now costs £40)
- We spent more on coaching than in previous seasons, with up to 4 coaches working with the seniors on a Tuesday night
- £270 has been spent on coaching courses for this coming June, in order to compensate for an anticipated loss of coaches available next season.
- An additional £300 was spent on club socks and shorts than budgeted for, but this will be recouped by sales during future seasons.

Income

Income is expected to be over £1000 above budget.

- Subscriptions may well be £500 above budget, but will still be below the levels of 05/06. This reflects a small increase in the number of senior members of the club
- Match fees will also be up to £500 above budget

08/09 Budget

Expenditure

- After two seasons of above inflation increases in pitch hire rates the Sports Centre is yet again increasing its charges. Because they are moving away from separate rates dependent on the use of lights, and are reducing the concessionary rate for juniors, costs for training and matches will be affected differently
 - Training costs will probably only increase by 4 or 5%.
 - Match costs will increase by approximately 25%, or £1800.

I have asked Stevenage Leisure to look at options for reducing the impact of these increases on the hockey club (the majority if their budgeted increase will come from us), especially in light of the fact that a couple of our teams include a large number of juniors and are run at a loss. I'm waiting for their response.

- I'm expecting a reduced spend on coaches. The men's section did not have a good turn out this year, and can not justify having two coaches. I also fear we can't afford to have two paid coaches available to the ladies on a weekly basis.
- No significant amounts will be spent on additional website developments, club strip or courses.

Income

- My view is that subscriptions should cover the running of the club, covering training, affiliations, insurance etc. By reducing spend in certain areas this



balance will almost be achieved. For this reason I'm proposing that subscriptions remain unchanged.

- Subscription rates to remain at £90 for adults, £60 for committee members and captains, £40 for juniors/members in full-time education and £10 for goalkeepers with full kit. £20 increase for payment after October 2008.
- If the 25% increase to pitch hire costs are enforced by Stevenage leisure no changes to match fees would result in a deficit of about £1000, reducing our account balance to an unacceptable level. This would force us to increase match fees in order to give us a balanced budget..
 - Match fees would increase to £9 for Adults, £4.50 for juniors/members in full-time education.
- Last years increase in match fees were designed to cover a modest increase in pitch rates for next season, so if I'm able to reach a compromise agreement with Stevenage Leisure there would be no need to increase match fees.
- I will also be looking to find new sponsorship for the club during the summer, as £1000 would be enough to balance our budget whatever the outcome of my discussions with Stevenage Leisure. Could I suggest that if any member of the club needs financial or legal advice in the short-term they consider our historic sponsors, as this may encourage them to contribute again.
- I don not intend to make a final decision on match fees until the start of next season, but I'm looking for approval to increase match fees if I'm not able to make our budget balance in any other way.
See attached document.

HB asked if everyone would vote on the proposal that the Committee make the decision on changes to the match fees. It was a unanimous vote.

5. Presentation of subscription proposals

Subscriptions would probably increase however this would depend on the response received by Stevenage Leisure as to the whether the club would receive a 25 % increase in pitch hire. Negotiations are on-going.

6. Club and team captains reports

Julie Barnes – Ladies Club Captain

It hardly seems like 8 months since myself and Sam on behalf of the 1s, Tina on behalf of the 2s and Siobhan and Liz on behalf of the 4s sat on my lounge floor reviewing our database of players. As we went through the database, I can't say that it wasn't disheartening to find how many players were not intending to play the 07/08 season, particularly those that had been around for, let us say, a good few years, and had played week in week out.

As a team of captains however, we had a job to do. We made our way through the ladies database and when we left that evening (after many cups of tea) I recall feeling fairly elated in the fact that we appeared to have retained 4 ladies teams, despite the departure of some key players. Still 'To Do' – find a captain for the 3s!



Within the week we had managed to scoop (some say press-gang) Carrie into the post of 3s captain and all seemed well. It wasn't long however before Carrie was selected to play 1s, leaving us looking for a 3's captain once again – Sharon stepped up to the mark, took hold of the torch and we were back with a full quota of captains.

As a captaincy team, we continued to have almost weekly meetings which I have to say, did disintegrate somewhat from the cups of tea mentioned above, to a couple of us having a few many wines on one particular occasion (I vaguely recall).

It quite quickly came to light that although on paper, we had 4 teams in reality, the captains, particularly the 3s and 4s, were having immense difficulty in getting 4 teams out on a Saturday. It was at this point, we uncovered the dreaded word 'availability' – the truth hit us – we needed more players and thank you to all who helped coerce, persuade, drag new players into the club this season who have slotted in very neatly to our squads, and have helped our team to achieve the results they have.

I guess special mention should be made in relation to Sharon, 3s captain and Siobhan and Liz 4s captains, as it is to their testament that they did not give up week in / week out trying to field a team – making many calls late into Friday evening / early Saturday morning to ensure that all that wanted a game – got one. Thanks to this, guys, for continuing in what must have seemed at that time a never ending crisis situation. Final placings: the 4s finished 6th and the 3s came in 7th in their divisions. Well done to these teams.

Tina and her 2's team ended their season 4th in the division – by far the highest placing since records began (well the 5 years worth that appear on the 5 counties website!). A fantastic result.

The 1s headed up by Sam, completed their season finishing joint with Leighton Buzzard – the 1s however lead on goal difference. A great team effort.

At the beginning of this season I honestly don't think I could have foreseen such a great results from all of our ladies teams, Well done to everyone – we can all be proud.

Whilst thanks should go to the many people who help organise, co-ordinate, drive to games, and play in the ladies section, it feel it would be remiss not to say a special thank you to two people.

Whilst it is fairly well known that Mike Tipper regards the ladies game as a game being played on a different planet by aliens, a huge thank you to Mike for his never-ending search to provide us with umpires, week in/week out. I can't imagine anyone doing that job any better and whilst we may not always show it, Mike's efforts are greatly appreciated.

Secondly to Ellie who has not only played most games, attended training most weeks, but her contribution to the club in her assistance in youth development



this season has gone un-noticed. Many thanks Ellie for helping develop her future successors.

In terms of me, my last couple of months have been filled with trying to ensure that next season's captains did not face what we faced at the beginning of this season – the first step in that was to ensure that we had all our 08/09 season's captains in place prior to 3 days before the first game! I am delighted to confirm that all our captains in place, Rachel for the 1s, Liz Infield the 2s, Kath Wilson the 3s and Jax Burke the 4's and they will continue to build upon the good work that this season's captains started.

Early indication key focuses for next season are communication and youth development. I am keen to get some under 19s fixtures in the calendar for next season (last Sunday's game being cancelled at 9am due to snow only to find that by 11am – not a flake of snow in sight). If anyone is interested in being involved in the youth development side of things, don't hesitate to make yourself known – assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a great summer break and let us look forward to the 08/09 season.

7. Election of Officers

- Chair: Hannah Bartram to remain
- Treasurer : Tony Payne to remain
- Secretary : Vacant
- Membership Secretary : Tessa Chiswell to remain
- Ladies Fixtures Secretary: Di Tipper to remain
- Mens Fixtures Secretary : Mike Tipper to remain
- Ladies Club Captain : Julie Barnes to remain
- Mens Club Captain : Vacant to be filled by next season
- Junior Hockey Co-ordinator : Vacant to be filled by next season
- Social Secretary : Cheryl Whaley to remain
- Child Welfare Officer : Vacant to be filled by next season

Di Tipper asked about the role of the Child Welfare Officer. Hannah said that whoever took on the role would have to attend a Child Protection course. Sarah Cullip asked if more information could be supplied i.e. job description before considering the post.

Action: Hannah to forward details of the role to Sarah.

8. Election of Team Captains

- Ladies 1s : Rachel Dawson–Adderson
- Ladies 2s : Liz Infield
- Ladies 3s : Kath Wilson
- Ladies 4s : Jacqui Burke
- Mens 1s : Mark Cochrane
- Mens 2s: Vacant : to be filled by start of next season



- Mens 3s: Vacant : to be filled by start of next season
- Mens 4s Vacant : to be filled by start of next season
- Mens Vets : Mike Tipper
- Mixed Team : Matt Wilson



9. Any Other Business

Training

Training will commence again on 2nd September 2008.

Summer BBQ

Will be held at the Tippers in September once the season gets underway.

Mike Tipper update

Although the pitch hire will increase next season, a comparative study has been carried out across the region and the cost of pitch hire for our home pitch falls in line with other pitches. By August, the pitch will be re-laid with new dug outs positioned within the outer fence giving more room between the sideline and the fence. There will also be new goals. A new clubhouse is being built by the side of the pitch, however the club will remain using the facilities at the school.

Tipper thanked Hannah and Tony for their efforts with running the club over the past year. He concluded by thanking Steve and Stuart West for all their help over the past year.

Gully

Thanked the committee for all the emails which had been sent out during the season advising members of latest news etc. Although the website is there for everyone to view, it would be a good idea to send an email out about forthcoming events.

Mixed hockey plate: next match is due to take place on Sunday 20th April at home. Everyone welcome to come and support the team.

Rachel Dawson Adderson

We should continue to promote the club through Schools and Biggleswade Chronicle through the Sports through Schools campaign.

The meeting was closed at 2.30.