

Southern Counties Hockey Association

20th AGM – Thursday 14th January 2021

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting of the Association

All the attendees joined via Zoom, ready for an 8:30pm start.

Present: Ben Rea President SCHA and Masters (BR), Mike Ward Chairman SCHA / Hants (MW), Bill Carr Treasurer SCHA/Surrey (BC), Neville Wrench Vice Chairman / RCC (NW), Sue Perry Sussex (SP), Sandra Marlow Junior Vice Chair / Middlesex (SM), Maurice Umney Middlesex (MU), Sara Walker Masters (SW), Tony Hilton PC Coordinator (TH), Gaynor Toms EH RDM (GT), Caroline Baynes EH RDM (CB), Tony Eade SCHA Management (TE), Mark Ling Bucks (ML), David Browne SCHA Management (DB), John Dykes Oxon (JD), Ruth Busse SCHUA (RB), David Rigby Southampton HC (DR) and Richard Macer Secretary SCHA (RM).

Some attendees “arrived late” having had clashes with other on-line meetings, overrunning.

1) Apologies received

Alison Coles Berks (AC), Charles Darby Kent (CD) and Frankie Tierney Hants (FT).

2) Minutes of the 19th AGM (13th June 2019)

The President (BR) was in the Chair. The minutes were confirmed as accurate, approved and will be signed in person when Covid regulations allow. It should be noted this meeting has been delayed (in line with HM Government pandemic guidelines) from being held in the summer in order to follow the delayed EH AGM and then the hope a meeting in person could have been achieved. It was clear by late autumn that would not be possible for some while to come.

3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising not covered by items below.

4) Annual Report

The Hon. Secretary had produced a written report to cover the financial year 2019-20 and a brief update on the delayed EH AGM (held in mid-September) which had given the go ahead for implementing the EH Governance Review proposals, which in time will see SCHA replaced by 3 new Area Associations. It was also noted the retirement and long service of Ray Strudwick the Regional Disciplinary Officer for which a suitable present had been arranged by the Hon. Chairman.

In addition, TE thought the meeting should also acknowledge the outstanding work by the many involved in the five South based Player Pathway Performance Centres. He listed for example Centre Managers, Head Coaches, assistant Coaches, ancillary helpers, parents and administrators headed by Tony Hilton and monitored by Bill Carr and South Management colleagues - as well as the talented players themselves. This function has been a huge part of SCHA business in terms of money, time and resources as is reflected in the SCHA annual accounts. It is scheduled to close down in September 2021 as part of the recently announced EH Talent System initiative.

The meeting endorsed TE's sentiments.

5) Hon. Treasurer's report

a) BR thanked BC for collating the normal annual accounts details and for the benefit of the meeting producing more up to date details as at 31st December 2020.

Southern Counties Hockey Association

20th AGM – Thursday 14th January 2021

- b) BC has gradually been simplifying the budget heads and thus allowing the South Women's League and the ever expanding Masters accounts to run themselves. SW explained that the Masters details are available for inspection should anyone wish to examine them.
- c) BC confirmed that the general accounts would not collect affiliation fees in season 2020-21 (subject to AGM approval later in the agenda) and that the previous season (2019-20) affiliation fees had been returned, as overall funds could withstand it.
- d) BC also advised most of the general income received had been upheld discipline appeal panel deposits.
- e) With Covid lockdowns in both this and last season's PC programme there was significant cash in hand much of which may well have to be returned at the end of this PC season as the PC programme is scheduled to terminate after the Futures Cup this summer as a result of the new Talent system also announced at the EH AGM in September.
- f) The accounts for the season ending 31st March 2020 were formally approved.

6) Election of Officers

From the nominations received the following were formally ELECTED to their posts, nem con.

Chairman	Mr Mike Ward
Vice-Chairman	Dr Neville Wrench
Hon. Treasurer	Mr Bill Carr
Hon. Secretary	Mr Richard Macer

The Chair (BR) kindly praised the officers especially for all the additional workload caused by the ongoing EH reorganisation process and the Covid pandemic.

7) Appointment of a Scrutineer/auditor of the Accounts

BR asked BC to now seek a scrutineer and BC advised he would be approaching Peter Gee and he advised he would report back initially to Management on the outcome.

Action : BC

8) Approve the amendments to the SCHA Constitution (last updated 2014)

BR invited RM to outline the details from the suggested revised SCHA Constitution changes. RM advised that in the light of the recent EH Governance Review proposals passed at the September AGM that SCHA would in due course need to dissolve. South Management had reviewed the wording of the latest version (2014) and proposed clearer wording with respect to membership and to reflect more modern terminology in on-line banking. This was largely with respect to 'County' membership as opposed to 'Corporate' and in principle no major fundamental change other than clearer wording overall. This was approved nem con.

- 9) **Affiliation fees 2020-21:** BC, on behalf of the Management Committee, proposed that the County affiliation fees should be set to £0. This was approved nem con and thus he would take no further action for this season. N.B. All Counties do need to hold a list of all their affiliated schools.

8) Any Other Business

BR was unaware of any other business, but RM offered a brief update following discussions with Rich Beer (EH) in recent weeks on the EH Governance review, as most members present had heard little news of progress directly. BR emphasised SCHA's willingness to co-operate with EH with the implementation of the Governance Review, as Rich Beer had expressed some doubt in the matter, soon after the EH AGM.

Southern Counties Hockey Association

20th AGM – Thursday 14th January 2021

For information purposes, further detail is included than was stated at the meeting:

RM advised that (voluntary) Transition Groups for each of the 3 new South Regional areas had been set up for some time and were creating potential new League structures (adult and junior). The first adult league drafts have been shared with Clubs and a deadline of the end of January 2021 had been set for Clubs to advise their preferred prime Area to play in as a result. There was provision for senior sides in a Club to play in one area and their social (lower) sides to play in another in exceptional circumstances such as travel, which would be globally governed by an on-line system to ensure fairness on match days.

Legal governance documents have been drafted with a view to being discussed and if need be ready for amendment for presentation at the EH AGM in March 2021. Much work has also been undertaken to rationalise junior hockey structure across the 3 areas. EH have advised it wants to see the continuation of AC (County) junior competition and SCHA will need to support discussions to ensure the South County Championships can continue in a productive way to maintain the long standing traditions of this competition.

Following the next EH AGM it is envisaged the 3 new South areas will advertise and vote in, new administrative Committees to take on the new workload structures in time for all the new structured leagues to commence in September 2021.

It is likely some elements such as Masters Hockey will not fully transform to 3 areas during 2021 and Covid regulations pending, Masters competitions are to remain as is, for this summer. Player Pathway developments will be clearer after the promised Talent System update due in January 2021. Hopefully, it will show some incentive for most AC players to develop outside the few talented players likely to be cherry picked for major Club coaching opportunities.

There appears little feedback in the public domain on Indoor hockey, major umpiring re-organisation and the national restructure of discipline procedures, although there is much work going on with most of these threads, behind the scenes.

The Meeting closed at 8:54pm