



Purpose of Meeting	Annual General Meeting		
Venue	Sandbach Rugby Club	Date and Time	Sun 21st April 2024 - 4.00pm
Chair	Andrew Wise (Chair)	Secretary (minute taker)	Christine Harding
Attending Names Committee members	Andrew Wise (Chair), Della Latham (Vice Chair), Christine Harding (Secretary), Gail Laycock (Treasurer), Abi Marmont, Clare Johnson, Claire Buchanan, Ellie Hannant, Ed Deane.		
Others Attending	Charlie Podmore, Dawn Podmore, Keith Podmore, Katie Cuttle, Sarah Robinson, Michelle Barnett, Heather Adams, Alex Mayor, Steve Crowe		
Apologies	Phil Pordes, Melanie Braviner, Emma Stubs, Julie Thornhill, Nathan Owen, Sarah Nathan, Lex Payne.		
Required Distribution of Minutes	All Members		

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1.	Welcome and apologies	
	<p>Andrew Wise, club Chair, welcomed all members and parents to the Sandbach Hockey Club Annual General Meeting 2024. Apologies were received from a number of members, noted above.</p> <p>Club has 41 senior members who qualify to vote at the AGM. Numbers required as quorum for holding the AGM is 15% of voting members = 7 members. Meeting is therefore quorate as 11 senior members in attendance.</p>	AW
2.	Approval of previous AGM minutes and arising matters.	
	Copies of 2023 AGM minutes were circulated. All Members voted to approve minutes. No questions were raised about 2023 minutes.	All
3.	Reports from Chair and Secretary	
	<p>Report from Andy Wise – Chairman Changes were made to membership fees last year to support increased numbers of umpires, this has not had the desired effect, Liz & Dave continue to umpire as volunteers and cover majority of need. Next season more umpires will be needed.</p> <p>Men's development team was entered as a transition route for junior boys into senior mens hockey, despite some reluctance at the start of the season, this has proved successful. Culminating in an excellent end of season win against Knutsford who finished second in the division.</p>	AW

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3.	Reports from Chair and Secretary cont.	
	<p>Ladies 1st team managed to finish mid-table in division 4 after promotion last season. Another solid achievement considering the required ability jump existing between divisions. Hopefully ladies 2nd team will be promoted, announcement from league awaited.</p> <p>The club has seen an increase in volunteers which has made running the club easier and has eased the burden particularly on Andy, thank you to all volunteers involved. More volunteers are still needed to ensure the club runs in a way members would like it to and more umpires are still desperately needed.</p> <p>The junior feed-back meeting planned 22nd April will be very informative and will highlight what more the club needs to do to satisfy members/parents but can only be addressed if more volunteers come forward to help.</p> <p>Report from Christine Harding – Secretary</p> <p>Highlights of a positive season for the club are firstly the hopeful promotion of ladies 2nd team after only ever being in division 6. Secondly the continued strengthening of the junior section such that junior players have been key to the success of the ladies 2nd team and the potential renewal of success in the senior men's teams. Adam, with the support of Claire & Clare have continued where Julie left off and done a great job. Thank you to all volunteers involved but more needed and to re-iterate particularly umpires to ensure hockey continues at Sandbach Hockey Club.</p>	CH
4.	Treasurers Financial Statement and presentation of accounts	
	<p>Forecast was for a balance of £5500 by year end, aim is to have £5000 reserve to enable payment of upfront costs at the start of the season and allowance for changes in costs/income.</p> <p>Actual End of Year balance = £11200 plus £2478 owed by members.</p> <p>Liabilities = £6441, pitch hire, coaching fees, RC hospitality.</p> <p>Net = £7237, approximately £2000 above forecast due underspend on umpires and increase in junior members.</p> <p>Factors affecting finances are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% increase in members 21% increase in match fees Funds from sponsorship Increase in training fees but no change to pitch hire Spend on kit/equipment 25% increase on coaching costs Savings on umpires has allowed for payment of junior coach EOS & match day catering costs have increased but reflects better uptake, match day costs covered by match fees Debts written off that were owed by ex-members. 	AW/GL

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4.	Treasurers Financial Statement and presentation of accounts cont.	
	<p>Forecast for next season will be similar, extra cash will be kept within the club for spend on kit/materials, any extra profit made by the club is sensitive to membership numbers, therefore hard to forecast. If extra remains can be used for membership rebate, entry into competitions or extra coaching.</p> <p>Accounts signed off by Jon Rouse Ltd, Sandbach.</p> <p>Questions raised: Alex Mayor provided cost of rugby club advertising boards at £500 per year. Also highlighted the need to add to hockey club wall in club house, this would help to promote the club. Whereabouts of previous banners owned by club unknown.</p> <p>Grace Morris (not present) has suggested paying a small fee to promote/advertise the hockey club on social media.</p>	
5.	Reappointment of Accounts for the coming season	
	Andy proposed the reappointment of Jon Rouse Ltd as accountants for the club for coming year. All present voted in favour. Motion approved	AW
6.	Plans for 2024/2025 season	
	<p>Teams:</p> <p>Seniors Plan to enter Mens Development team as Mens 2nd team. Continue with Mens 1st team, Ladies 1st & 2nd teams. Offer more interclub friendly games to provide more casual hockey for players returning to hockey, parents & retiring players where league hockey is not preferred.</p> <p>Juniors Current Beavers Orange team will move to Badgers, U16s. Beaver Black team will become Beavers. More hockey planned for entry level U10s, including hosting tournaments. Interest already shown in U16s mixed tournament, with plan to extend this to younger players to provide them with game play in a none training setting.</p> <p>Trial Sessions The offer of 3 free trial sessions will continue but new members will complete registration forms immediately but will not be invoiced until after 3 sessions. If decide not to join will have to communicate this to the club.</p>	AW

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	Plans for 2024/2025 season cont.	
	<p>Membership:</p> <p>Due to an increase in numbers of junior members, age group/membership fees will be linked to school years and will reflect more hockey being available to 15/16 year old players because they are eligible to attend 2 training sessions per week and play both junior & senior matches.</p> <p>Memberships will be categorised as follows:</p> <p>Players in primary school (U10) - £80 + £5 match fee Key stage 3 years 7-9 (Junior) - £150 + £5 match fee Key stage 4 & 5 years 10-12 (Student) - £180 + £5 match fee Seniors – post school 18+ £250 + £5 match</p> <p>Membership Fees:</p> <p>Membership fees will remain the same as last year, the categorisation change will mean an increase of £30 per year for KS4 members who will move to the student rate, but a reduction of £20 for KS5 members.</p> <p>A 20% family discount will be extended to senior players, allowing where one full paying member at the same address as a second member, the second member will be entitled to 20% discount.</p> <p>Goal keepers with their own kit will be offered a reduced membership fee £50 + £5 match fee to reflect the significant cost of goal keeper kit.</p> <p>A casual, fully pay as you go (matches & training) membership at a reduced fee of £50 + £10 training fee + £12.50 match fee will be offered as a “Gift of the Committee” to players who prefer to play on a casual/social basis and would be considered for parents, retiring players or players who cannot play/train regularly for a valid reason. This will not be widely offered as may result in a lack of commitment to playing or training regularly. The committee will retain the ability to adjust these rates during the season as we find the right balance of fees for members.</p> <p>To manage trial sessions and PAYG members, Coaches, Captains & Managers will be responsible for keeping registers for training and matches using Spond.</p>	AW
7.	Vote on Membership rates for 2024-2025	
	<p>Questions raised:</p> <p>Alex Mayor expressed concern that the casual membership would potentially discourage commitment and would asked if any criteria be set e.g. minimum number of games. This membership would be trialed for a small number of existing members and not widely offered, but no criteria included at present.</p>	

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7.	Vote on Membership rates for 2024-2025	
	<p>Questions raised:</p> <p>Concerns raised about increasing fees for KS4 players as may result in loss of players who are already unhappy about last season. Some of these players may end up not able to play both junior & senior matches due to the number of Badgers Orange players. However, more playing opportunities will be available to these players as player numbers are not certain, therefore an increase in fees to match KS5 is fair.</p> <p>Goal keepers in this age group do not benefit as much as no specific training provided for them. Unfortunately, despite this being agreed with Ben, it has not been facilitated. Plan would be for the club to pay a dedicated goal keeper coach next season, with the option to open to other local clubs.</p> <p>Not implementing this increase in fees to KS4 members would cost the club £500. A compromise was reached to introduce KS4/5 fee of £180 rather than £200.</p> <p>The motion is to alter/add the membership rates as stated All present voted in favour. Motion Approved</p>	ALL
8.	Committee elections	
	<p>The following nominations were received for the executive committee Secretary: Christine Harding Vice Chair: Della Latham</p> <p>The motion is to reject a re-run of elections. All present voted in favour. Motion Approved. Chris & Della will continue in their executive committee roles.</p> <p>The following nominations were received for the committee Mens 1st team Captain: Lex Payne Mens 2nd team Manager – Steve Crowe Ladies 1st team Captain – Katie Cuttle Ladies 2nd team Captain – no nomination</p> <p>Where one nomination only received for each Captain/Manager position, these were accepted. Ladies 2nd team Captain to be sought before September.</p> <p>Welfare Officer position also vacant as Phil Pordes stepping down. Offer to fill this role received from Dawn Podmore. The executive committee will discuss and confirm.</p>	<p>AW</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>AW</p>
9.	Constitution Change	
	<p>Motion to change the requirement to have the executive committee drawn equally from the mens and ladies sections. This was implemented when ladies section being established and is no longer relevant. All present voted in favour. Motion Approved</p>	All



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10.	AOB and questions from the floor.	
	<p>Alex Mayor raised the need to continue strengthening the relationship with the rugby club. Hockey club members asked to volunteer at Rugby Club events including the Beer Festival on May bank holiday weekend 25-27 May and at firework display later in the year. The rugby club have agreed a discount on an advertising banner from £500 to £250 per year if sufficient volunteers from hockey club. An event will be published on Spond for availability. Alex trying to negotiate a 10% discount with rugby club membership card to hockey club members. A summer social/BBQ to be held at the rugby club would also fulfil strengthening relationships between the two clubs.</p> <p>Katie Cuttle asked about plans for summer training: Summer training will commence Thursday 6th June with 1 hour for juniors and 1 hour for seniors, mixed sessions, not formally coached but game orientated, cost £5 per session. Plan for break in August unless numbers interested covers costs. Attendance poll will be added to Spond in May. If numbers at summer training are high fee may be reduced. None members pay £20 plus £5 per training session for summer membership.</p>	

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