

Welsh Hockey Union Limited

5th Annual General Meeting

Venues: Welsh Institute of Sport – Cardiff
The National Watersports Centre, Plas Menai

Date: 16th March 2008

Time: 14:45 – 16:00

Present: Bangor LHC (Carole Paterson), Bridgend HC (John Taylor), Buckley LHC (Carole Brookes), Cardiff & UWIC HC (Richard Nicholls), Cardiff University HC (Gavin Wollmer), Colwyn Bay HC (Margaret Smith), Fishguard & Goodwick LHC (Angela Miles), Llanishen & Caerphilly HC (Peter Johnson), Newport HC (Chris Brewer), Swansea Bay HC (Billy Barletta), Swansea LHC (Anne Ellis), Whitchurch HC (Julian Miles), Whitchurch LHC (Bev Rogers), Wrexham HC (Martyn Evans), WHUA (Alison Cook).

In attendance: Mary Bainbridge, Jen Barton, Lesley Bayne, Terry Cook, Karen Evans, Peter Ganesh, Roger Harris, Mike Leatt, Sue Maughan, Dawn Mitchell, Ian Ord, Jane Ord, John Turton, David Salter,

1. Presidents Welcome

Anne Ellis welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked everyone for giving up their time to attend when so much hockey was taking place throughout Wales, and apologised for the fault with the video conferencing equipment.

Anne gave a special welcome to David Salter (Life Member) and Sue Maughan (Sports Council for Wales) and also reported that Welsh Hockey had lost a great benefactor and former president in Ken Howells who had passed away during the year.

On a more positive note Anne reported that Dysynni Hockey Club had been nominated to the EHF for their 'club of the year' award and although they hadn't won the award, they had made the final shortlist of 7. Anne congratulated them on their good work.

Anne asked that the meeting agreed to rearranging the order of the standard agenda because of the problem with the video conferencing equipment. Items 8 (Election of Directors) and 7 (Proposed registration & player registration) were taken first.

Apologies: Rae Ellis, Beth Fisher, Carolyn Llewellyn, Chris Marriott, Anne Mullin, Jane Price, Judith Powell, Lynne Thomas, Bangor HC, Caernarfon LHC, Cardiff LHC, Carmarthen Athletic LHC, CH Arduwy, CH Castellnewydd Emlyn, Gowerton LHC,

Llanfaircaerinion LHC, Llantrisant & Llantwit LHC, Merthyr Tydfil LHC, Milford Haven LHC, Neath HC, Newtown LHC, UC Aberystwyth LHC, Welshpool LHC.

Presidential Proxy Votes:

The following Clubs and Schools had allocated proxy votes to the President prior to the AGM: Amman Valley HS, CH Dinefwr A'r Fro, Llantisant & Llantwit LHC.

Other Proxy Votes:

Newtown LHC, Cardiff Athletic LHC.

8.Election of Directors

Anne Ellis explained that papers issued prior to the meeting had given details of the nominations for Directors as part of the modernisation of the Board agreed in the EGM held in January. Although there were only four nominees the voting still had to take place to determine the length of term for each of the nominees.

Each member voting was asked to place the nominees in order 1-4 with 1 representing the nominee they would wish to see serve the longer term through to 4 for the nominee they would wish to serve the shortest term.

Two directors were to be elected for a term of 30 months and 2 for a term of 18 months

The results of the elections were as follows:-

Mary Bainbridge	Elected for 18 months
Jen Barton	Elected for 18 months
Karen Evans	Elected for 30 months
John Turton	Elected for 30 months

7. Proposed Registration & Player Registration Fees 2008-09

The proposed fees were distributed in advance of the meeting, following a previously agreed protocol of an annual increase in line with inflation, rounded up or down as appropriate.

Questions were invited from the floor – Lesley Bayne asked which month the RPI figure was based on. CJB explained that it was the year on year figure taken at November 2007. There were no further questions and the meeting voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

3a. Minutes of AGM 2007

There were no amendments and the minutes were signed as a true record of the proceedings

3b. Minutes of EGM 2008

There was one amendment to the minutes. Ian Ord was present but not mentioned on the attendance list.

Following the amendment the minutes were signed as a true record of the proceedings.

4. Matters Arising from AGM / EGM

During the AGM in 2007 Carol Brookes had asked that the Board consider changing the upper limit of the age group for Youth member from 17 to 18. At a subsequent meeting the Board had agreed to keep the age banding as it is to simplify the administration in terms of the Universities. Otherwise University students would change categories after their 1st year and this would potentially make the registration very complicated as they register large numbers.

Alison Cook raised the issue of how non-executive Directors will be appointed at the EGM in January. The new Board will be considering this at the next meeting. Mike Leatt explained that documentation identifying the role of the Non-Executive Director has been issued, an advert will be placed on the web-site and a formal application process will take place in the near future.

5. WHU Accounts 2006/07

The report and accounts were issued prior to the meeting and was available on the WHU web-site. Robin Jones summarised the report and apologised for the typographical error in the Income on the Profit and Loss Account. The correct total should read 663,943 not 663,944.

Alison Cook commented on the disparity between income and expenditure under the Unitary Authorities and Women & Girls and in reply Chris Brewer explained how the grant received from SCW was not as prescribed as it had been in previous years and therefore some of the costs for the development officers was included under staffing. Alison also commented on the disparity between income & expenditure for the Performance element of the account and whilst some of this is attributable to the way in which the SCW grant is apportioned, Mike Leatt also added that the WHU wishes to drive down the cost of Performance as a percentage of the total spend, however this year the situation was inherited part way through the programme and it was impossible to make a significant difference. By the time the 2007/2008 account is produced the disparity should be reduced.

The final point was whether the WHU posts are funded by the SCW grant and in response it was explained that SCW give a 'pot' of money to WHU for staffing and it is up to us how we apportion it.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to Salaries and Expenses separated out in the Account. There was some discussion regarding the funding of the coaching section, mainly regarding understanding how the funding works. The UKCC element of the funding is reducing year on year as this was aimed at getting the UKCC scheme up and

running. Coaching plan money is awarded annually and we rely on the money to substantially fund one post.

Alison Cook asked what the accepted ratio of reserves to operating costs is as the Accounts show a deficit for the 2nd year running. Sue Maughan explained that the SCW 'norm' was for reserves to cover 3 months salary costs and 6 months operating costs. It was agreed that the WHU needs a reserves policy.

Following the questions the meeting unanimously accepted the 2006/07 accounts. Anne Ellis thanked Chris Brewer and Robin Jones for their work in producing the final account.

Anne Ellis welcomed Roger Harris (Life member) who arrived at 15:20. Sue Maughan (SCW) and Robin Jones left the meeting at 15:40.

6. Reports

The reports were issued to all members prior to the meeting and were available to download from the WHU web-site. There were some comments from the floor regarding the content of the reports.

David Salter commented that it may be 'shooting ourselves in the foot' to mention in a report that we have had to work hard to regain the trust of the SCW. John Turton said that it was a statement of fact and an acknowledgement that the WHU had gone through a rocky patch.

Alison Cook commented that the WHU doesn't appear to have made much progress over a 10 year period from a club and player perspective as we appear to be worse off for numbers of clubs, numbers of players and numbers of teams. It is likely that hockey will suffer even more as a result of the current Welsh rugby success. This point of view was backed up by Roger Harris who added that the good work that a lot of clubs do with their youth players doesn't seem to translate into Senior teams.

There was some discussion around the fact that society has changed and there are many more choices available for everyone now. The interest in the sport of hockey needs to be captured in the right way and volunteers are key to successful pathways and maintaining level of participation. Where these are in place we have had some success in growing clubs, numbers of players, etc. This needs to be the 'norm' throughout Wales. The discussion also touched upon the fact that traditional forms of the game may not be the answer to attracting people into the sport now and we may have to change some of the ways that we look at ourselves.

Anne Ellis suggested that anyone with an interest in making a difference to hockey in Wales should get involved in the various groups which will be in place.

Alison Cook asked why the Friends of Welsh Hockey report stated that the loan to the WHU was due for repayment in 2009 whereas the Accounts say different. This was because there was no formal repayment schedule in place.

Bev Rogers commented that clubs should be encouraged to seek sponsorship from local businesses in order to raise the profile of the sport. 2008 is an Olympic year and we should be ready to take advantage of the heightened publicity particularly if GB do well. Mike Leatt also added that the Euro Nations competition which has been awarded to Wrexham for 2009 is another key opportunity to maximise publicity and put hockey in the shop window.

Lesley Bayne asked if the performance indicator for officials & Umpires included FIH appointments. Chris Brewer confirmed that they did.

Chris Brewer asked the meeting if they were aware of the TV coverage of the GB Men Olympic qualifier, and most people seemed to know that it was being shown.

John Turton asked the meeting if they would prefer a mid-Wales venue for future AGM's particularly as they would be in the summer months. The consensus was that this would be preferable to video conferencing and in addition if the AGM could be combined with some other event then that would be ideal.

Anne Ellis summed up the meeting by sending best wishes to Sarah Thomas in her efforts to be part of the GB squad in Beijing.

The date of the next AGM will be before the end of July 2009.

Meeting closed at 16:00

Anne Ellis
President