

# Welsh Hockey Union (North Region) Men

## Annual General Meeting

Held at Northop Hall Cricket & Hockey Club  
Thursday 10 May 2007

### MINUTES

#### Present:

Iwan Davies (Colwyn Bay) (Chair)  
Pat Knowles (Llandudno) (Past Chair)  
Martin Evans (Wrexham) (Vice Chair)  
Neil Harvey (Northop Hall) (Secretary)  
Jon Upton (Northop Hall) (Treasurer & Cup Sec)  
Mark Davies (Rhyl) (North West League Rep)  
David Bickley (Wrexham) (Hockey Dev Officer)  
Ian Ord (Wrexham) (WHU Director)

#### Apologies:

Andy Nason (NWHUA Rep)  
David Siddorn (Oswestry) (League Sec)  
Neil Owen (Youth & Schools Rep)  
Steve Edwards (NWHCA Rep)

#### Represented:

Colwyn Bay Hockey Club  
Dysynni Hockey Club  
Northop Hall Hockey Club  
Rhyl & District Hockey Club

#### 1) Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (held on Wednesday 10 May 2006 at Colwyn Bay Cricket Club) were agreed without changes.

#### 2) Matters Arising

There were no outstanding matters arising from the last Annual General Meeting:

- A special meeting of all clubs had been held to review the operation of the North Wales League.
- All three North Wales cup finals had again been held on the same day but changes were planned for next season. All three finals and the semi-finals of the Premier Cup and League Cup had been held at NEWI, Wrexham.
- The fining of clubs failing to complete cup fixtures had been considered by the Executive Committee but not implemented this season.
- Clarification of the Executive Committee's authority to act against clubs leaving the North Wales League to play in the North West League had been obtained from WHU.

#### 3) Chairman's Report

Iwan Davies had circulated his report prior to the meeting. The key points were:

- The experimental move to Sunday league fixtures had been generally successful. Members' fears for the future of the North Wales League appeared to be unjustified.
- At the start of the season we welcomed Dysynni Hockey Club but bade farewell to Denbigh Hockey Club, who decided to disband.
- Thanks were due to Dave Siddorn who, after many years as League Secretary, has decided to step down.
- Three cup competitions had again been organised thanks to the efforts of Jon Upton, although clubs still needed to be more cooperative in returning fees and application forms and ensuring fixtures were completed on the agreed dates.
- The finances of the regional committee continued to be precarious but, as reported later, there is good news on future sponsorship.
- Following the departure of several key personnel and subsequent discussions, a proposal to bring Youth & Schools activities closer to the Executive Committee has been prepared for consideration at this meeting.
- Executive Committee meetings and activities continue to be supported by the same small number of people. Clubs need to increase their participation and contribution to regional activities.
- Thanks were due to the members of the Executive Committee for their enthusiasm and energy. Best wishes to Martyn Evans in his term as Chairman.

#### 4) Treasurer's Report

John Upton presented a summary of the accounts:

- Opening Deposit Account balance was £38.39 (at 11 May 2006).
- There had been no transactions on the Deposit Account in the year.
- Closing Deposit Account balance was £38.39 (at 10 May 2007).
- Opening Current Account balance was £522.10 (at 11 May 2006).
- Income for the year (fees, sponsorship) was £521.00.
- Expenses for the year (pitch hire, umpires, medals) were £719.78.
- Closing Current Account balance was £323.32.
- Outstanding income for the year (unpaid fees) is £119.00.
- Outstanding expenses for the year (pitch fees, umpires) are £183.00.
- Current Account balance after outstanding items is £259.32.

In addition, NEWI have agreed to sponsor North Wales Men's Hockey to the tune of £1500 over the next three years. This would include trophies, medals and possibly umpires fees but we would still be liable for pitch fees. The sponsorship can be "sport-matched" so we should be able to bring in a further £1500 which would ease our capital situation and potentially enable us to support development in the region.

#### 5) League Secretary's Report

Dave Siddorn was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a brief report:

- Nine teams participated in the League.
- Dysynni were runaway winners in their first season (although UW Bangor could have caught them if they had completed all their games!)
- At the time of reporting: four teams (Colwyn Bay, Dysynni, Llandudno and Oswestry) had completed fourteen of their sixteen scheduled fixtures; two teams (Bangor City and UW Bangor) had completed only half their scheduled fixtures.

A request had been received from Buckley Hockey Club to enter a junior boys' development team in the North Wales League. It was agreed that this would not be appropriate but that Buckley's details would be circulated to all member clubs so that they could arrange friendly fixtures.

#### 6) Cup Secretary's Report

Jon Upton summarised the cup competitions:

- Northop Hall won the North Wales Premier Cup, defeating Rhyl & District in the final
- Wrexham won the North Wales Shield.
- UW Bangor won the North Wales League Cup.
- Some clubs (notably UW Bangor and Newtown) had been unwilling or unable to play fixtures on the scheduled dates.
- Contact problems persisted with UW Bangor.

#### 7) Schools & Youth Report

Neil Owen was unable to attend the meeting. No report had been received.

#### 8) Umpires Report

Andy Nason was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a written report:

- This had been a quiet year for umpiring.
- Training of new umpires and development had gone well.
- Clubs requiring umpire training or assessment should contact Ann Hulston.
- Alan Brookes needs to be advised as early as possible if umpire appointments are required.
- Ian Ord informed the meeting that, following a compliance audit by the Sports Council of Wales, the Welsh Hockey Umpiring Association would be brought within WHU. Future funding would be dependent on this happening.

#### 9) Election of Officials

The following officers were agreed by the meeting for the season 2007-2008:

Chairman: Martyn Evans (Wrexham)  
Vice-Chairman: Jon Upton (Northop Hall)  
Past-Chairman: Iwan Davies (Colwyn Bay)  
Secretary: Neil Harvey (Northop Hall)  
Treasurer: Jon Upton (Northop Hall)

The following positions were confirmed by the Executive Committee for the season 2007-2008:

Cup Secretary: Jon Upton (Northop Hall)

#### 10) Appointment of League Secretary

Further to the retirement of David Siddorn as League Secretary the Executive Committee proposed that, in future, the North Wales League should be organised in turn by the member clubs. It was agreed that Dysynni Hockey Club would run the league for season 2007-2008. Adrian Bennett agreed to be the

contact for league issues until further notice and would investigate the feasibility of using the FixturesLive package (as used by the North West Hockey League).  
It was agreed that, for next season, Sunday would be the default match day for league matches.

### **11) Schools & Youth Reorganisation**

The need to consider a reorganisation of Youth & Schools activities and responsibilities had been brought about as a result of:

- The standing down of several key members of the existing Youth & Schools Committee.
- The ongoing difficulty of finding candidate officers to stand on the committee.
- The lack of representation of Youth & Schools at the Executive Committee.
- The need to clarify Youth & Schools objectives.
- The need to make best use of WHU resources and facilities.

To address these issues the Executive Committee proposed a set of changes to the WHU (North Region) Men constitution that would make the Executive Committee directly accountable for Youth & Schools activities, in the same way as it was currently responsible for the North Wales League and the North Wales Cup competitions. The changes were proposed by Pat Knowles, seconded by John Upton and agreed unanimously by those present. Further meetings were already planned to sort out the details of how these changes would be implemented.

### **12) Subscription Fees**

Prior to the meeting it had been proposed to request from member clubs a one-off supplement to next season's annual subscription in order to build up the cash reserves of the Executive Committee. In view of the sponsorship funding reported above this proposal was withdrawn.

### **13) Any Other Business**

Ian Ord summarised recent developments within WHU:

- A new CEO had not been appointed until the beginning of March.
- SCW funding had been dramatically reduced.
- Funding was now focussed on "health" rather than "sport".
- We now have a significantly larger number of bodies claiming their share of a smaller pot.
- Within hockey, funding is now focussed on development not performance.
- Mary Bainbridge is leading a "task and finish" group to finalise the Competitions Subcommittee proposals for European Qualification.
- WHU directors now have specific roles; Ian Ord is now responsible for liaison with the North Wales regional committee, as well as performance and international hockey.