

# Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club

Clubhouse: Herts & Essex Centre  
Beldams Lane, CM23 5LX  
[www.stortfordhockey.co.uk](http://www.stortfordhockey.co.uk)

## Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 26 September 2020 remotely at 6pm

Present:

Bernie Cotton (President), David Butcher (Chairman), Duncan Barber (Men's Club Captain), Amy Duffy (Secretary), Jamie Henderson (Treasurer), Rachel Armitage (Junior Coordinator), Gregg Pettit (Development Coordinator), Hollie Mathison (Committee Member), Simon Martyn (Committee Member), Richard Temple (Ladies Club Captain), Adam Farley (Social Secretary)

Alex Hall, Alex Wilde, Alison Martyn, Andy Round, Darren Brown, Ros Brown, Elizabeth Reay, Charles Kittrell, Charlie Leonard, Denise Clark, Duncan Laws, David Earl, Emelia Mitchell, Emily Wood, Fred Cooke, Freya Sweeney, Gulsara Ospanova, Hannah Wynne, Hannah Brazil, Jack Wheaton, James Marsom, James Nash, Joe Clune, Lori McLeish, Lori Morrison, Lucy Carr, Mark Shillito, Pearl Mason-Smith, Michel Titcombe - , Nick Prowse, Oliver Plummer, Jemma Pettit, Richard Carr, Ronnie Stott, Sandra Figg, Simon Wallace, Tom Nash, Tom Woods, Tom Frenzel, Vernon, Mark Taylor, Louisa Rhodes, Katie Richards, Gabi Morgan, Jack Bareham, Dave Roberts, Phil Mathison

Welcome, introduction to the meeting and apologies for absence

There were apologies from:

Pippa Bull (Safeguarding Officer) Paul Round (Communications) Belinda Appleby, Steve Appleby, Vicky Cox, Nadia El-Zanfaly, Paula Frenzel, Ross Holsworth, Helen Perry, Polly Murphy, Simon Murphy, Richard Owen, John Kirton

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this Annual General Meeting and explained that for this year it was being held later than usual due to the pandemic and virtually. The members were asked to provide any questions prior to the meeting but would also be given an opportunity at the end of each section.

### Minutes of the previous AGM

The AGM agenda and the papers were circulated to members ahead of the meeting. The 2019 AGM minutes were accepted and were proposed by David Butcher and seconded by Rachel Armitage, agreed unanimously,

Reports were circulated prior to the meeting and have been uploaded onto the website. This meeting would include key highlights from the reports and any question

## **Chairman's report**

David Butcher presented an overview of the 2019/20 season focusing on key messages:

- Prior to Covid it had been an exceptional year for the club, moving into Beldams Lane
- The success of the ladies' section
- Returning of the Men's sixth team
- The development of our new website by Adam Farley

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Jamie Henderson, who will be stepping down this year as Treasurer after 5 years.

## **Constitution**

Amy summarised the updates to the constitution, none of which are substantive, which had last been updated at the 2018 AGM:

- The move to Beldams Lane and away from the Bishop's Stortford Community Sports Club - which was formerly called the Sports Trust
- Reflected sections to the changes in operations such as members being responsible for paying captains but now includes match fees being taken by direct debits.
- Areas have been moved for better flow.

Duncan Barber proposed that the changes were approved, Rachel Armitage seconded, agreed unanimously.

## **Covid Update**

Duncan Barber in his role as Covid Officer explained how the role works and what is expected from members as at step 4 of the England Hockey steps to returning to playing hockey.

## **Beldams Pitch Report**

We have been enjoying our new pitch and clubhouse. Members were reminded of the Herts and Essex Sports Centre's Covid Guidance. It is hoped that the club room will be available for use in time for the league games hopefully commencing on 26 September 2020, subject to the Government guidelines.

Due to the lockdown the Centre is experiencing some liquidity issues but there is a business plan in place to work towards profitability.

## **Hockerill Pitch Report**

Gregg Pettit presented the Hockerill Pitch Report. In terms of lettings and the effect of Covid it had been minimal as most of the lettings occur through the winter months.

There is £150K in the sinking fund. It has been four years since the carpet was changed. Due to the underlay not needing to be replaced there had been a significant saving. It was envisaged that there would be some additional costs as the Trust and School recognise that some of the equipment will need to be repaired or replaced.

It was noted that Andy Gilder used to sweep the pitch every Sunday morning when we were part of the Trust, but this is now completed by the school.

### **Ladies' Club Captain's Report**

Richard provided a review of the Ladies season and highlighted that England hockey have announced that no league games will be played, for both the ladies section and the men's section, prior to the 26 September 2020.

It has been an incredible season for the Ladies Section with four divisional championships won including.

- 1<sup>st</sup> XI being promoted to the Ladies East Premier A
- 2<sup>nd</sup> XI winning the five counties premier league
- 3<sup>rd</sup> XI finishing in their highest ever placing.
- 4<sup>th</sup> XI winning the ladies East Division 2SW
- 5<sup>th</sup> XI being runners up in Division 4 and
- Acolytes winning Division 5;
- A 7 XI will be introduced this year.

All with a 76%-win rate and only 11 defeats out of 100 games.

DT thanked the captains for all their help during the season, players for committing to playing and training.

### **Men's Club Captain's Report**

Duncan Barber provided a review of the men's season:

A fairly good season:

- 1<sup>st</sup> XI reached fourth in their league
- 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were fourth in Division 4 - They will be aiming for promotion this season
- 3<sup>rd</sup> XI struggled but maintained their place in Division 4
- 4<sup>th</sup> XI were relegated to the Division 5 after two years of promotions
- 5<sup>th</sup> XI were promoted to Division 7
- 6<sup>th</sup> XI have been reintroduced with a number of friendlies and will be in Division 9 this coming season

### **Junior Hockey Report**

Rachel summarised the key highlights from the junior section.

- There are around 250 juniors U16
- The numbers within the girl's section are continuing to grow

The U14 girls are a strong squad with at least 30 attending training regularly, they won all their games. 11 players were selected for the academy side and 1 player selected for the Performance Centre They had reached the East League finals but due to Covid they were cancelled. Rachel thanked Charlie and the team.

On the boy's side, some teams did struggle to field a full squad and fulfil their fixtures this season. The U16 boys had to be withdrawn from the cup. Their playing has improved by being integrated within the men's teams. Player recruitment will be a priority for this season. The U12 boys had had a very successful season.

Rachel thanked all those involved from coaches to parents, Duke of Edinburgh volunteers and umpires.

Charlie Leonard commented that the Ladies 1XI will be helping with the junior section and queried whether this would be the same for the Men's 1XI. Duncan advised that both first teams will be helping support the junior section this year by attending the training on a rotational basis.

### **Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts**

Jamie Henderson reported that it is an unprecedented time which will impact costings. As a club so far, the impact has occurred during the quieter period where minimal expenditure occurs leaving the finances in a favorable position with a reserve in the bank.

In the event of no hockey in 2020/2021 it has been forecast that we would be able to survive as a lot of the costs would not exist except for the fixed costs such as insurance, levies and the website. There was also a good buffer of cash in the bank.

The club's financial year usually runs to 30 September which is in line with the Sports Trust and other Clubs. However, with the relocation to Herts & Essex Sports Centre the opportunity has been taken to change the financial year end to April. At this AGM there will be two sets of accounts being presented

Jamie provided some key highlights from the Year ended 30 September 2019:

- It's the third season of using GoCardless, which, together with the increase in numbers in the junior section, has led to a slight increase in proceeds received from subs compared to previous years
- There was a small drop in proceeds received from match fees due to the increasing number of core players reaching the 18-game discount limit
- Costs increased due to coaching costs and additional catering (some special events held during the year)
- There has been a tightening up of old accounting terms within the accruals, prepayments and balance sheets
- There were initial frustrations with the implementation of the new website from a financial perspective with the main one being that it spread the subs cost over five payments and that new accounts had to be set up

Jamie asked that all members ensure that their payment details are up to date for the junior section. Due to some details being out of date, there is around £8k fees owed. Those members who are affected will have been contacted by the relevant club captain.

## Conformation of Subs

Jamie advised that given the current situation financially, and with England Hockey only being on Step 4 of the phased return to hockey, the proposal for the fees for the season 2020/21.

### Proposed Subscriptions & Match Fees 2020/21 Season

Given the above the committee proposed the following scenarios of subs and match fees:

England Hockey Level	Proposed Subs and Match Fees
L2 - Small groups but with social distancing in place	£5 Pay-as-you-play.
L3 - Small group training allowed with some closer contact allowed. Allowing for tackling/marketing etc	£50 social sub only payable for all and £5 Pay-as-you-play.
L4 - Intra club / local matches can happen but restrictions prevent leagues / main competitions resuming.	£50 social sub payable at the start of the season and a per game match fee. If L5 reached during the season, then remaining subs payable at a later point.  £140 (£70 for U8s) subs for juniors will remain.
L5 - Full leagues / competitions resume	Normal subs payable plus half match fees if no teas and normal match fees with teas

If L4 is sustained or L5 is reached but then during the season a second COVID spike drops us to L3 or below then amounts of "unused" subscriptions paid will be carried forward as a partial prepayment to the 2021/22 season. This will depend on timing of such new restriction - and a need to balance perfection with administrative workability.

Match fees will be halved to £5 / £2.50 if teas are not allowed under COVID rules and will only be payable if L4 or L5 is reached. If teas are allowed, then match fees will be charged in full.

If L5 is reach then as subscriptions and match fees were increased in the prior season, the committee have proposed a freeze on those fees for the current season as summarised below.

Category	2019/20	2020/21
Adult subscription	£170	£170
Student/ Junior subscription	£140	£140
Junior U8	£70	£70
Graduate (first year return from university)	Free	Free
New Adult member	£140	£140
Social/Occasional	£50	£50
Adult match fees	£10.00	£10.00
Junior match fees (for adult games)	£5.00	£5.00
Student match fees	£5.00	£5.00

It was highlighted that whilst the 18-game discount still applies it will not be applied until the end of the season. There are also family discounts available.

Duncan Barber proposed the subs and match fees as agreed, Amy Duffy seconded, with the motion being carried unanimously.

### Re-Election of Officers

David advised the following changes:

- David Butcher would be resigning as Chairman, Duncan Barber would be standing.
- Jamie Henderson would be resigning as Treasurer; Peter Duffy would be standing.
- Duncan Barber would be resigning as Men's Club Captain, Jack Wheaton would be standing.
- Simon Martyn would be resigning as Men's Representative; Duncan Laws would be standing.
- Gregg Pettit standing as Junior Manager.
- Jilly Colbran standing as Umpire Liaison.

All those officers that were to be re-elected were completed as a collective and there was an individual vote on each of those standing for a position for a first time:

Officer	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	Bernie Cotton	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Chairman	Duncan Barber	David Butcher	Amy Duffy
Secretary	Amy Duffy	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Treasurer	Peter Duffy	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Umpire Liaison	Jilly Colbran	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Junior Manager	Gregg Pettit	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Junior Coordinator	Rachel Armitage	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Communications	Paul Round	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Ladies Club Captain	Richard Temple	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Men's Club Captain	Jack Wheaton	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Men's Representative	Duncan Laws	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Ladies Representative	Hollie Mathison	David Butcher	Duncan Barber
Social Secretary	Adam Farley	David Butcher	Duncan Barber

Each vote was passed.

**Any Other Business**

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:10 pm.

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Chairman

Dated:

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