



Welsh Hockey Union Limited

2nd Annual General Meeting

Venue: Flash Leisure Centre, Welshpool

Date: 8 January 2005

Time: 14.15 – 16.45 hours

Present

Gowerton High School (Anne Ellis, President), Newport HC (Alan Rookes, Chairman), Barry LHC (Chris Marriott), Buckley LHC (Jean Spence), Chepstow LHC (Jen Barton), Clwb Hoci Dinefwr A'r Fro LHC (Rae Ellis), Dowlais LHC (Susie Osborne), Llanidloes LHC (Katie Hamer), Newport LHC (Anne Mullin), Pontypridd LHC (Jane Price), Swansea LHC (Debbie Austin, WHU National Development Manager), Wrexham LHC (Claire Burrows), WHUA (Carolyn Llewellyn), Llanishen & Caerphilly HC (Chris Despres), Northop Hall HC (Glyn Davies), Swansea Bay HC (Billy Barletta), Whitchurch HC (Terry Cook), Wrexham HC (Jane Ord), WHUA (Alan Brookes)

In attendance

John Mayock (SCW), Mike Bull (WHU Chief Executive Officer), Chris Brewer (WHU Operations Manager), Alan Lints (WHU National Performance Director), David Griffiths (WHU National Performance Coach) Lesley Bayne, Mary Capp, Karen Evans, Sue Jackson, Sarah Powell, John Turton, Alison Cook

1 President's Welcome

The President welcomed everyone to the AGM. She was grateful that so many people had made the effort to attend.

A special welcome was given to those Life Members present and to the new members of staff Mike Bull, Chief Executive Officer and David Griffiths, National Performance Coach. Anne also welcomed John Mayock, our new Sports Council Liaison officer who has recently replaced Ian Blackburn. The President thanked Ian Blackburn for his loyalty and commitment to Welsh hockey during the 7 years he worked with us

Welsh Hockey have lost two good friends – Howard (Howie) Williams (Wales and GB International player and former Coach to the WWHA) and Rob Charmley (stalwart of Wrexham HC, North Wales Council, North Wales representative on WHA Council and Management Committees and former Vice Chairman of the WHU). Both will be sadly missed.

The WHU have had a very successful year, both on and off the pitch. Anne drew attention in particular to:

Congratulations were offered to Debbie Austin (National Development Manager) and her team of Development Officers. Thanks to all the school teachers and club volunteers for their help in making this possible.

All our International sides have performed well this season. Our Senior Men won the Celtic Cup and our U21 Women won the European Hockey Nations Junior Trophy.

National awards were won by Anne Mullin - WSA Sports Administrator of the Year, Chris Despres - BBC Unsung Hero and Pam Richards - Welsh Coach of the Year.

Swansea LHC and Whitchurch HC are both playing in the ENL

Anne Ellis thanked Chris Brewer for highlighting several of our achievements in the presentation which was running prior to the start of the meeting.

She also thanked Alan Lints (National Performance Director) who made a difference in the time he has been with us.

The President also thanked the Directors, the staff and all the volunteers for the help and support they willingly give to Welsh Hockey.

2 Apologies for Absence

M. Bainbridge, N. Blyth, R. Caddick, A. Carter, S. Clayton, C. Crayford, F. Davison, M. Gallivan, S. Graham, R. Harris, J. Hunt, D. Jones, R. Jones, C O'Donnell, I. Ord, M Peary, D. Pedwell, N. Pallot, J. Roberts, M. Roberts, D. Salter, M. Smith, B. Wheeler, J. Wheeler, J. Williams, Northop Hall HC, UC Bangor LHC

Presidential Proxy Votes

The following Clubs and Schools had allocated proxy votes to the President prior to the AGM: Carmarthen Athletic LHC, Llantrisant & Llantwit LHC, Montgomery LHC, Pembroke LHC, UC Bangor LHC, Whitchurch Saints LHC, St Margaret's Primary School, Brynmawr High School, Ysgol Gyrwadd, and Harold Road Junior School.

Other Proxy Votes

Clwb Hoci Llanelli LHC, Cwmbran LHC, Howardian LHC, Penarth HC, Ringland Primary School, King Henry VIII High School and St Clares Senior School.

3 Minutes of 2004 AGM

The minutes of the 2004 AGM were approved

4 Matters Arising

(4.1) Schools Under 18 Championships

The Schools Under 18 Competition is continuing in its traditional format. In addition a Clubs Under 18 Competition has been introduced for 2004/2005 season. Alison Cook advised that the calendar is under review.

(4.2) Marketing and Sponsorship Co-ordinator

Roger Caddick had continued to help with marketing and sponsorship. Roger was thanked for his continuing efforts.

(4.3) Boys Brigade

The WHUL office has moved to Severn House, Station Terrace, Ely, Cardiff, CF4 4AA.

(4.4) HSBC National League

The HSBC have agreed to continue to sponsor hockey in Wales, subject to the transfer of bank accounts from Lloyds. Sponsorship will be approximately £5000 per year for three years for a Junior Award Scheme

(4.5) Target/Performance Indicators

All target and performance information is now on the website, including revised targets for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006

(4.6) Articles of Association

The Articles of Association are now on the website

(10) Date and Venue of 2005 AGM

The President apologised for the change of date of the AGM. It had been impossible to find a venue for Sunday 9 January 2005 in the Welshpool area, hence the change of date.

5 To receive the 2003/2004 Accounts of WHUL

Robin Jones, Finance Officer, was unable to attend meeting. In his absence, the Chief Executive Officer presented the accounts. He advised that the Auditor had signed the accounts on Friday 7th January 2005. Copies will be sent to individuals on request.

A net surplus for the year of approximately £30,000 has been achieved. Reserves are now approximately £75,000, which represents a significant improvement on the situation a 2 or 3 years.

The challenge of additional costs against a reduction in the level of grants shows a projected surplus for 2004/2005 is in the region of £5,000 with a break even projection for 2005/2006.

In answer to a question, Mike Bull advised that the increase in depreciation (from £1,049 to £4,850) was a result of additional equipment purchased.

In answer to a further question, Mike explained that pension liabilities of employees are not shown in the accounts as staff have personal pension plans and not through a WHU Pension Scheme (FRS17).

Karen Evans queried the £8,000 Grant from UK Sport for IT upgrade (showing in administration costs in 2003 accounts, but not as a Fixed Asset in 2004). Mike Bull agreed to refer this query to Robin Jones and respond, in writing, within the next 7 days.

ACTION: MB

The President thanked Robin Jones, Chris Brewer and Mike Bull for preparing the accounts and thanked the Sports Council for their substantial contribution and continued support

6 Reports (All reports had been available on the website prior to the AGM)

6A President – nothing to add.

6B Chairman - Alan Rookes thanked the Sports Council for their £345,000 contribution to Welsh Hockey, it was difficult to imagine what hockey would be like without their support
The Chairman thanked the President and the Directors for their work over the year; he also congratulated Anne Ellis on her recent election to the FIH Executive Board.

6C Development – nothing to add.

Chris Despres congratulated the Development Section on their achievements throughout the year, but asked if it translated to more people playing club hockey. Primary School Sport and Dragon Sport is on the increase, but we do not appear to be seeing an increase in Youth teams in Clubs and people playing senior club hockey.

Glyn Davies advised that there might not be a North Wales League (Men) next season as clubs were in dire straits and struggling to put teams out every week

Debbie Austin advised that WHUL are still negotiating with the 12 non-targeted Unitary Authorities, but the priority is to work with the 10 targeted Unitary Authorities. She advised that Whitchurch HC have between 180/200 youth players, Swansea HC have about 100 youth players, Carmarthen and Dowlais have large numbers of young players and hockey in Flintshire and Powys is moving forward.

Debbie would welcome the opportunity to meet with Chris and Glyn to discuss further.

ACTION: DA

6D Aberystwyth Camp – nothing to add.

The President thanked Margaret Smith for organising the Aberystwyth Camp. It is an excellent camp which continues to grow

6E Competitions – Alison Cook is running National Competitions for Men (with the exception of Indoor) as no volunteer has been found to replace Roger Harris. A replacement is essential if competitions are to continue.

The calendar continues to be a problem with several clashes due to the increase in the number of competitions and various squad training days and weekends. A meeting is to be held in the next few months to review the competition structure and look at the calendar.

6F RAF Careers Welsh Youth Finals – nothing to add.

6G RAF Careers Welsh Secondary Schools Finals

Entries in the Primary Schools competition have increased from 40 schools to 140 schools.

6H Umpiring and Technical

One amendment to the report was noted – Stephanie Robinson did not represent Wales at any Senior or Junior tournaments.

6I International Squads Report

Alan Lints congratulated everyone on a successful season and hoped the successes would continue

6J Mixed International – nothing to add

6K Great Britain Olympic Hockey Board

Anne Ellis advised that, whilst the report is brief many lengthy meetings had been held to discuss the areas of focus.

6L Friends of Welsh Hockey – nothing to add.

The President thanked everyone for their reports and thanked Chris Brewer for collating them

7 Great Britain Olympic Hockey / FIH proposal

The President outlined the position in respect of the future arrangements for GB and Wales in World Hockey. She drew attention to the previous papers issued.

The motion before the meeting was “That the Welsh Hockey Union Limited foregoes their representation in World level events in favour of Great Britain”.

The meeting discussed the above proposal and unanimously agreed to the following amendment:

“That the Welsh Hockey Union Ltd (WHUL) membership gives to their Board of Directors the authority to forego WHUL’s representation in World events in favour of GB subject to a satisfactory outcome of an overall review of hockey within UK and thorough analysis of GB’s performance structure, combined with a restructuring of the way in which hockey is developed within the UK, such that it provides as a minimum equal opportunities to all to aspire to the highest level possible Any subsequent foregoing of World representation by the WHUL is conditional on the following:

- WHUL will not waive its rights to compete at world level events at any level below senior
- WHUL will not waive its rights to compete at any level in Continental and Commonwealth events
- WHUL will not waive its rights to compete at Continental Indoor tournaments

8 Registration and Player Registration Fees 2005 – 2006

After discussion, the meeting approved Option 2 by 25 votes to 5. The Fees for 2005/2006 will consequently be:

Club Fee payable by each club irrespective of merged status	£42.25
Team Fee payable for each team playing Senior Competitive hockey	£10.25
Senior Member	£17.75
Youth Member (aged 13-17 inclusive, age on 1 January next)	£ 6.75
Intermediate Member (aged 11-12 inclusive, age on 1 January next)	£ 4.75
Mini Member (aged under 11, age on 1 January next)	£ 2.75
Secondary Schools	£15.00
Primary Schools	£10.00

Fees include Civil Liability insurance cover AND Accidental Death, Permanent Total Disability and Capital Benefits (except Schools which do not include an insurance element)

CJB to check if pre-existing medical conditions are covered.

ACTION: CJB

9 Election of Directors

Following a secret ballot Karen Evans and John Turton were elected to the Board of Directors for a period of three years

10 Election of Player / Umpire Representatives as Directors

Jen Barton and Colin Crayford were elected to the Board of Directors for a period of one year

11 Appointment of Auditors

Stephen Brown & Co were appointed Auditors

12 Award of Certificates of Merit

Certificates of Merit were presented to:

Mrs Carol Brookes
Mrs Shirley Clayton
Mr Glyn Davies
Mr Chris Despres
Miss Sue Jackson
Mr Dave Pedwell
Mrs Margaret Smith
Mrs Jackie Williams

The President thanked them all for the exceptional contribution they had made to Welsh Hockey and congratulated them on their awards

13 Date and Venue of 2006 AGM

Date and venue to be advised

It was noted that the WHUA AGM will be held in September 2005.

The meeting closed at 16.30 p.m.

Alan Lints

Following the meeting Anne Ellis made a presentation to Alan Lints.

Alan has been the National Performance Director for the last three and a half years, but is now returning home to New Zealand. In that time he has brought new and fresh ideas to Wales, has set up the Academy and has changed our perception of hockey.

Anne thanked Alan for his work and wished him every success and happiness in the future.

Anne Ellis MBE
President