

DRAFT

Market Harborough Hockey Club Annual General Meeting – 11 June 2026, Online 19:30

MINUTES

Attendees: 13 members in attendance (8 Full/Full Concession, 1 Honorary, 4 Casual) (13 in total, 9 eligible voters)

Full members: Raoul Mercer (RM), Jo Bevan (JB), Sally Kirke (SK), Bronwyn Wood (BW), Rachel Richardson (RR), Ben Langdown (BL), Matt Jackson (MJ), Will Crabtree (WC) (arrived late),

Honorary member: Nick Riley (NR)

Casual or non-members: Simon Ingram-Hawkes (SIH), David Littlewood (DL), Robert Davies (RD), Dave Standish (DS)

Apologies: Alex Hammant, Owen Arthur, Tom Pedler, Hannah Curtis

Proxy votes (5):

c/o Jo Bevan: Alex Hammant (Full), Owen Arthur (Full), Tom Pedler (Full), Isabella Ritchie (Full)

c/o Sally Kirke: Ady Kendall (Full)

Quorum required: 13 (25% of O18 Full members)

Number of eligible voting members at AGM: 8, plus 5 proxy votes = 13

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1. Apologies (JB)

- a. Alex Hammant, Owen Arthur, Tom Pedler, Hannah Curtis
- b. Proxy votes c/o the Secretary: Alex Hammant, Owen Arthur, Tom Pedler, Isabella Ritchie
Proxy votes c/o Sally Kirke: Ady Kendall
- c. Quorum required: 13 - quorum reached.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM & SGM (RM)

- a. Matters arising out of those minutes
 - None outstanding.
- b. Approval of minutes - **CARRIED**

3. Proposed amendments to the Constitution (RM)

- a. Amendment proposed to section 3.b.10:
 - Currently reads:
 10. The Committee shall appoint the Captains and Team Managers of each team and other members at its discretion.
 - a. The Captains of each team shall be made known to all Club members before the start of the season.
 - Proposal to change to:
 10. The Team Captains shall be elected at the AGM for the coming season in the similar manner to the Committee.
 - a. If any Captains are not elected at the AGM then the Committee may appoint them at a later date.
 - b. The Captains of each team shall be made known to all Club members before the start of the season.
- b. Discussion: Proposal and rationale outlined. Some disagreement with the proposed details. Noted that AGM not the right time to appoint Team Captains, new coach to start in September and a need to ensure a good

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working relationship between coach and captain(s). If required, proposal could be edited and proposed at next AGM. Mentioned that teams may also required Managers but that volunteers are sparse.

- a. **VOTE:** 1 for, 3 against, 5 abstain - **PROPOSAL NOT CARRIED**

4. Chair's Report – Raoul Mercer

- a. Report:

Well, for me, it definitely seems like a season of two halves.

On a personal note, in January I had some more spare time so took over the Chair Person role. I have previously been Captain many times but this was my first time as one of the main Club Officials. I have really enjoyed playing at Harborough over the years, so was happy to take on something else and give something back to the club.

From a Club point of view, it seems as if we started to settle in the second half of the season and seemed to turn things around a bit.

In the Men's section we had a great many youngsters suddenly coming into the teams and I think it took the first half of the season for things to settle down a little, get the teams organised and people understanding what they were meant to be doing.

We also lost around 10% of Men's players in the club between the 24/25 season and last year 25/26, which is why we struggled a few times with player numbers.

The Women's teams seemed to have gone from strength to strength as the season progressed, and it was great to see the Women's 1st team end the season as champions (4 points clear and a better goal difference) and moving up a league. The women's 2nds also had a good solid season with a comfortable mid table result in 5th place.

The Men's teams did not fair quite as well with the 1st team just being relegated as well as the 3rds being relegated. The 2nds struggled at the start of season but managed to settle down in the second half, to end up in a strong mid table position of 5th.

The Junior group is once again looking very healthy and we should see this feeding into the senior teams which is good.

Looking forward to next season, I am very pleased to say that we have now secured a Senior Coach (David O'Brien) who will take both the Men's and Women's training next Season. He has experience of Coaching both Women's and Men's teams at our level and so we should see a good solid start to next season. He will also attend a match each weekend alternating between Women's and Men's teams which will help the teams work on some tactical game play items.

This appointment will put a little pressure on next seasons finances but we feel it is a worthwhile investment for the club.

Dave Standish will also continue the excellent job as the Junior Coach and Tom Pedler will hopefully continue to provide Goalkeeping Coaching.

This should form a strong coaching foundation through all levels of the Club which is very good news and it will form a solid foundation for next Season.

We are still struggling to get volunteers to help run the club and I would encourage anyone who can afford even a small amount of time to talk to one of the committees and take on a role.

The Club cannot operate unless we have enough volunteers.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who already contributes and for all their help last season.

I think the Club is now in a very good position going forward and look forward to a successful season.

5. Secretary's Report – Jo Bevan

- a. Report:

Our membership remained steady in 2025/26 and we have had several new players join the club, including several new women's players and an uptick in young junior members. Thank you to David Standish for his dedication in planning and coaching the junior section this season.

Overall, last season ran smoothly with almost all matches being fulfilled and minimum fixture disruption.

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Across the season we had 55 men's players that played in 72 men's fixtures, down on last year as we did not enter a masters team this season, and 39 women played in 48 women's fixtures.

The senior teams have had a mixed season. Unfortunately, it was the turn of the Men's 1s for relegation after finishing in 10th place with 20 points. The 2s had a stronger season, finishing in 5th place with 42 points, but the 3s ended in 12th place also resulting in relegation. The women's teams both had a successful season with the 1s being promoted as division Champions with 57 points, and the 2s ending in 5th place with 26 points.

We also entered a Mixed team into the England Hockey Championships, and the team played 3 matches in the competition.

As always, we require more umpires and encourage all members to do the free umpiring course on the England Hockey website. Umpiring courses are currently free of charge as they are funded by England Hockey via club membership fees; England Hockey affiliation changed last season to include free training courses for umpiring and coaching. If you would like to know more about umpiring or the online courses, please get in touch.

We ran a few social events over the year, including the Quiz Night in the spring, the End of Season celebration at the Golf Club, and the Intraclub Summer League tournament, all of which were good fun and an opportunity to socialise with club members, and help to raise additional funds for the club.

The Committee has worked well this year holding regular meetings to oversee club matters, but MHHC does need new volunteers to come forward to help run the club and ensure its future. There are many vacant roles that when filled would help to share the running of the club between our volunteers. There is no pressure to fill all committee roles at the AGM, but if you would like to get involved in any way, please get in touch and we can find a role to suit you.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone that has given up their time and energy to help the club during the season. Thank you.

- b. RM - thank you to JB on behalf of club.

6. Consideration and adoption of the Accounts – Simon Ingram-Hawkes

- a. Report:

The report is for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

The current period reports income of £35,049.74, expenditure of £31,230.61, and a surplus of £3,819.13. The surplus is higher due to March pitch hire fees (£1,914.84) not being invoiced at the time the accounts were produced.

Membership fees and match fees were up ~£2,700 on the previous year. The remainder of income remains inline with 2024/25.

Fees are the dominant income source at 81.1% of total income, showing the club is primarily funded by member activity rather than sponsorship or donations.

The largest spending area is Pitch Fees at £15,176.10, which is 48.6% of total expenditure. This is the biggest cost driver to monitor as we have not had a pitch hire fee increase in the past year.

Pitch hire is slightly down on last year. The change to the new supplier has not been seamless. We are currently paying monthly in arrears which has been reflected in the cashflow but not negatively and is being monitored.

England Hockey fees were up over £1,000, having been offset against an increase in membership fees, reflecting the increased benefits to members.

Coaching fees were down £700 reflecting a change in Coaches, this is expected to rise in the coming season.

Outstanding fees total £939.48, or 2.7% of income, while year-end cash is £18,671.45, giving the club a solid liquidity buffer.

The accounts are with Ellipse Accountants for review.

- b. RM - many thanks to SIH for his support and for continuing while a replacement Treasurer was found.

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7. Setting of all Club fees for the next season – Simon Ingram-Hawkes

a. Small fee increase is proposed for Casual with Matches membership for 2026/27, illustrated in the table:

Proposed Annual Membership Fees for 2026/27				
Membership type (Concession - U18, Student, retired, unemployed; Junior - U13)	Annual Membership fee	£ increase p/a	Monthly payment x6 months	£ increase per month
Full	£ 192.00	£ 0	£ 32.00	£ 0
Full Concession/Junior	£ 129.00	£ 0	£ 21.50	£ 0
Casual with Matches	£ 35.00	£ 5.00	-	-
Casual Concession/Junior with Matches	£ 20.00	£ 3.00	-	-
Casual	-	-	-	-
Casual Concession/Junior	-	-	-	-

- Casual with Matches memberships annual fee increase of £5 (£3 for concessions).

b. Rationale for increase outlined.

c. **VOTE:** All for, 0 against - **CARRIED**

8. Election of Officers and Committee – Raoul Mercer

a. Proposed Officers:

- Chair – Sally Kirke
- Vice Chair – *vacant*
- Secretary – Jo Bevan
- Treasurer – Raoul Mercer
 - Nominated by: RM proposed SK for Chair, BW seconded; RM proposed JB for Secretary, SK seconded; SK proposed RM for Treasurer, BL seconded.

b. Committee:

- Current: Fixtures Secretary – Bronwyn Wood; Welfare Officer – Hannah Curtis
 - Nominated by: RM proposed, DL seconded.

c. To be voted on block:

VOTE: All for, 0 against - **CARRIED**

9. Propositions and Resolutions (RM)

a. None to discuss.

10. Propositions for Association AGM (RM)

a. None to discuss.

11. Any other business within the competence of the meeting (RM)

- No questions proposed in advance of the meeting.
- SK – thank you to RM for his short tenure as Chair, and for taking on the Treasurer role.
- No further AOB.

Meeting close: 20:23