



Wallingford Hockey Club Annual General Meeting 2025 **Wednesday 25th June 2025, 8.15pm at Wallingford Sports Trust**

Present

Sam Abrey, Harry Adlard, Helen Barber, Charlotte Barber, Jenny Capon, Charlie Chamberlain, John Evans, Beth Farrant, Roger Gill, Laura Harding, Elaine Hargreaves, Mairi Hills, Evie Jefferis, Philippa Johnson, Angus Jones, Fon Leigh, Ginny Light, Diana Mills, Rosie Mills, Heather Merryweather, Annabelle Neal, Erica Robinson, Dave Rollins, Claire Satchwell, Hannah Satchwell, Claire Scott, Ali Stokes, Damian Tyler, Hannah Tyler, Wilfrid Venners, Guy Windsor-Lewis

1. Apologies

Angela Clements, Sophia James, Jack Johnson, James Lanyon, John Phillips

2. Minutes of the Last AGM

Heather Merryweather proposed and Claire Satchwell seconded that the minutes of the previous AGM were a true reflection of the meeting and the minutes were adopted.

3. Treasurer's Report

Summary

In 2024-25, the Club has recorded a healthy profit of £25k. This compares to £21k profit in 2023-24. The key points are:

Income

- Membership numbers in the adult section have increased slightly from 178 to 184. We saw an increase in Membership fees of £2k, slightly higher than we might have expected, but due to the demographic of our members. Wildcat numbers dropped slightly from 380 to 375 this season and Wildcat income dropped by £1.1k as a result of this and an increase in U12 players.
- Match fee collection has continued to work well with Teamo. There have been more intra-club and Masters matches, and larger match day squads, particularly in the ladies section, that have all contributed to the increase in match fees income this season.
- Bank interest has increased significantly this year due to the rise in interest rates and £85k was placed in a 180 day notice tracker account. We now have to pay corporation tax on this figure.
- The Wildcat tournament was fully operational this year after frost delayed the start last year.

Expenditure

- Pitch hire costs have dropped this season due to cancelled pitch slots from freezing conditions, particularly mid-week, and despite additional slots for mixed, intra-club and masters hockey.



- Our England Hockey affiliation fee rose by over £800 due to an increase in insurance costs from them.
- We spent £3.7k on GK kit to make sure there were enough full kits across the Club for all teams that needed Club kit.
- We entered 2 teams in the Hawks ladies summer league in 2024 as well as extra tournaments pre-season for the men and women, leading to a £600 increase in league entry costs.
- We no longer pay for media and marketing as a volunteer as kindly taken on this role. The spare money was used to support paying an umpire co-ordinator as no volunteer could be found for this role.
- In miscellaneous costs, we spent £500 on the shed refurb, but had no first aid courses this season, so saved overall in this cost category.
- Last season we bought Wildcat kit for resale but have not reinvested in this to date.
- As well as the umpire co-ordinator discussed above, we invested in radios for use by all our umpires
- Other Wildcat costs reduced as there was no performance academy coaching in the Wildcats this season and there were no extra costs for u14 boys compared to last year.
- Wildcat pitch hire is lower than last year mainly due to frozen sessions and less extra training/match sessions towards the end of the season.

Balance Sheet (compared with 30.4.24)

- We continue to have a strong cash position, increasing funds by £25k this year to a year end total of £218k. This all helps towards building a healthy fund towards a second pitch.
- Deferred income includes £1.2k of donations from VP's which will be used to buy a set of new goals for the pitch.

Subscriptions and Match Fees

We propose leaving match fees as they are for next season.

England hockey have informed us that they are restructuring the way they operate and charge clubs for their services. This means that our affiliation fee is going to go up by around £10 per member, adults and juniors, which will work out around £5,000 in total. In light of this and an expected rise in the cost of the pitch hire which the Trust haven't finalised yet, we propose increasing all full playing subscriptions by £10 and non-playing and holidays only by £5.

This will mean the new rates will be:

Adult over 30: £180

Adult 18-30: £140

Full time student 12+: £130

Non-playing/mixed: £40

Student: Holiday only: £25

Wildcat U12 & below: £110



New adult members will continue to be eligible for a 50% reduction in their first season. This does not include old members returning after a period away.

We will continue to offer financial support for anyone who would otherwise be unable to access the sport and hope players and parents will get in touch with us in advance if this affects them.

Q&A regarding the Treasurer's Report

DR posed a question regarding the thinking behind the reduced subscription for 18-30 year olds. HM and GWL responded that the club has less players in that age group and the subscription was proposed in order to attract younger players into the club.

The members present unanimously voted to accept Treasure's Report as presented.

4. Chairman's Address (GWL)

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen – a very good evening to you all especially those joining us fresh from the inaugural game on the new surface! And thank you Heather for another comprehensive (and your last) thorough review of our finances. I'm sad to say that this is Heather's last Treasurers Report as after seven years in the seat, Heather has decided to call it a day. One of the longer if not longest serving committee member, we owe her a huge debt of thanks. She has agreed to mentor the incoming Treasurer, and I'm delighted to say that Charlie Chamberlain has stepped forward to take on the role starting today. Charlie is well known to many of us having played at the club at junior and senior levels and I'm happy that that we are in safe hands for the coming years.

It would also be terribly remiss of me not to mention Fon – our retiring Trust Rep who has represented the Club in many different guises over the years – we honoured her at the Dinner so will keep this short only to say we are truly indebted to you Fon. I'm delighted to say that Claire has volunteered to step into this vital and pivotal role as we look to address some of the processes within the Trust and exert more influence over some of the decision-making. Whilst we are on this theme, volunteering is a key part of the club and without our volunteers, the club would simply fail to function. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that give up their time for the benefit of others: starting with the Wildcats and all the coaches and admin and support staff who turn up every Sunday morning to support the 350+ kids that we have in our junior section; to the coaches and fixture secretaries, to the countless umpires, Rog and Ginny our wonderful Club Captains, the 10 team captains who again turn up week in week out to make sure that the 200+ senior members of the club can enjoy quality coaching and matches every Saturday; to Trish Andersen for managing the mixed team on Friday nights which has become a huge success; to Helen Barber for organising the Women's Masters; to our beloved Committee who help guide the club throughout the year and to Sam Abrey, our Director of Hockey, who does such a magnificent job overseeing all that we do as a club in the Juniors and Seniors, her time assisting the Trust, the work she and Erica put in to organising our socials and our end of year Dinner and the countless unpaid hours she puts into this club – she remains pivotal to the success of our Club and needs all our support. We do have a couple



of spaces open – namely Press & Publicity, Umpiring Co-ordinator and Social Secretary – if anyone is interested then please speak to me or any of the committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I give absolutely no apology for going on so long about our team of volunteers as I believe it needs to be said, volunteers need to be thanked, the club as a whole needs to understand what actually makes this club tick and that it's a constant requirement, be it the ever changing faces on committee or umpires every, single Saturday afternoon come rain or shine.

As Angus and I reach the end of our third year in the hot seat, I think it's important to look at the key strategies we posed at the start of our tenure and see if we are making a difference. To refresh your memories, when Angus and I were asked to lead the club, we agreed to divide the role – Angus taking on the 'on pitch' responsibility and me doing the, shall we say, more administrative role. We agreed 5 key strategies:

- First – increase training numbers, playing numbers and competitiveness
- Second – increase playing numbers so we can comfortably fill 10 senior sides each week
- Third – increase the competitiveness – throughout the club at senior and junior
- Fourth – re-surface existing pitch and aim for second pitch.
- Fifth – maintain the unique nature of the club

Training numbers have increased but we could do with more. Although pitch availability is an issue with one pitch and footballers – we are looking to increase pitch time. The increase in Women training and playing has worked and has meant we can create a 6 th XI which will start this season. It would be good to see the Men step up to the same level. Increasing the competitiveness has also paid off – not one not two but three teams were promoted last year – a record for the club. (RG commented that M4 have also been promoted, only recently confirmed). Wouldn't it be nice to see that replicated this season. As for the pitch re-surface – we finally got there. I'm not going to lie – there have been frustrations with The Trust especially over the timing of the re-surface as we would have liked to do it at least one or two years ago but they did step up and, with the help of a small number of committed individuals from WHC have produced a great surface so thank you. The last point – retaining the nature and spirit of the club is arguably the most important item on the list. Sitting at home writing this speech, I looked back at the moments that give me a tingle down my spine – the annual dinner and genuine support for our club; the spirit shown when adversity shows its face; the way the club celebrates each other's victories and comes together when things don't go so well – as a long time member of the club it makes me unbelievably proud to be Chair – we have something quite unique and should be proud. Regards the second pitch – I'm pleased to say this is moving forward – admittedly this may appear to be at a snail's pace but these things take time and are multi layered involving not just the hockey club but the football and rugby clubs too. Planning for the football 3G is either in or going in imminently which means we should get an idea on the hockey pitch in the coming months. There is no doubt we need it – our juniors are oversubscribed and we believe that with a second pitch we can benefit from more members, more competing teams in both the Men's and Women's sections. That concludes the Chairmans Speech. AJ added the club's thanks to John Atkins for his enormous hard work in respect of the pitch resurfacing project (alongside Fon).



5. Election of Officers

The election of officers was done by 'slate'. Heather Merryweather proposed and Ali Stokes seconded. The members voted in favour.

Officer	Nominee
President	John Phillips
Co-Chairperson	Guy Windsor Lewis
Co-Chairperson	Angus Jones
Honorary Secretary	Jenny Capon
Honorary Treasurer	Charlie Chamberlain
Social Secretaries	TBC
Sports Trust Representative	Claire Satchwell
Website	James Lanyon
Director of Hockey	Sam Abrey
Welfare Officers (adults)	Claire Satchwell & Damian Tyler
Welfare Officers (Wildcats)	Erica Robinson
Umpiring Coordinator	TBC
Women's Club Captain	Ginny Light
Men's Club Captain	Roger Gill
Women's Fixture Secretary	Josie Brettell
Men's Fixture Secretary	Harry Adlard
Kit Secretary	Erica Robinson

6. Vice Presidents

The committee received a nomination for John Rees to be invited to become a VP. The nomination reads:

John has held many positions at WHC over the years including Chair of the club for two years, men's fixtures secretary, captain of the mixed team (lots of touring and lots of mopping up youngsters who had perhaps imbibed one or two too many!), men's 3s captain, men's 4s captain, umpire and coach. We think John has played in every team; in recent



seasons he has made guest appearances in the 4s and 5s but these days is more likely to be found on the golf course!

The members present voted unanimously in favour of the nomination.

7. Questions and Answers

WV asked where the new pitch will be sited. GWL explained the potential options at the moment, namely where the current rugby training pitch or as you enter the sports park on the right. Very much still up in the air at present.

DR asked about umpiring radios being available for those who haven't currently been issued with one, perhaps being kept in a centralised place, eg in a box in the shed with a code. SA responded that the problem is ensuring that they are charged and ready for use. She suggests waiting to see how many more umpires there are in the coming season before investing in further radio sets.

LH asked about the potential for a discounted 'family subscription'. HM responded that we have looked at this in the past but as WHC has lots of family groups this would inevitably lead to increased subscription costs for everyone. GWL made the point that WHC subscriptions are lower than most and ours represent very good value. HM pointed out that families are able to request assistance and that this is dealt with on a case by case basis. DT asked if there was a possibility of paying monthly as an example rather than the big 'hit' up front. HM explained that this would be very onerous for the Treasurer to monitor.

8. AOB

1. England Hockey Spirit of Hockey Guidance. CS outlined the new guidance which is replacing the former Respect code of conduct. Members were given a leaflet showing the four main values around which the guidance is based. She told the meeting that as a club we will be looking to adopt the guidance, and players and parents will be asked to sign up to the Spirit of Hockey on Teamo. GL raised a question about how it would be enforced and CS explained how breaches might be addressed and dealt with. The club will look to make the values known about, adhered to, visible with signage and very much a part of our ethos. AS asked a question about inclusivity as part of the discussion. SA explained that England Hockey have a specific section called Flyerz and that WHC would be keen to participate but are prevented from doing so currently due to lack of pitch space. It's on the agenda for when we get a 2nd pitch.

The members present voted in favour of adopting the Spirit of Hockey Guidance.

2. JC proposed two sets of changes to the constitution. The first to add in the roles of Welfare Officers and Umpire Co-ordinator to the Committee Roles (they already exist but



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have not up to now been included in the Constitution). Members voted in favour of this change.

The second changes relate to our application to become a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) in order to avoid paying corporation tax. An example of a wording change required by HMRC was read out and all changes were available for members to review at the meeting. Members present unanimously approved the changes.

3. SA informed the meeting that there would be a WHC Club Day on 6th September, further details to follow.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.05

Signed by Guy-Windsor Lewis

Chair

Wallingford Hockey Club

22nd July 2025