

Alton Hockey Club
AGM Minutes
27th May 2021

Present:

Dave Harvey, Martin Green, Vicky Small, Gayle Moir, Steph Millington Clark, Jon Swan, John Wallace, Matt Steven, Sophie Wallace, Grev Coomer, Pete Tynan, Martin Kercher, Tom Pate, Dom Samuelson, Colin Gamble, Nikki Bird, Ian Southgate, Gary Ward, Bex Chester, Natasha Lindley, Richard Spicer, John Smith, Simon Cooney, , Hilary Betts, Whitney Chobah, Annie Dale, Andrew Stratford, Naomi Jones

Apologies:

Lawrence Jones, Joe Yeadon, Louise Yeadon, Mark Emmerson, Jo Ripton Palmer, Rachel Dulai

Item 1: Chairman's Welcome and Report

The full text of the Chairman's address is included as a separate file. In precis:

The Chairman reviewed the past year in his address and highlighted how the club has supported members' wellbeing in these difficult Covid-19 times. He then looked back in pride on his 6-year tenure reminding members that 3 men's teams had grown to 6 and that 1 ladies team to 4 (next season) and referring also to the hugely successful Junior section. The Chairman assured members that the future plans for the club are exciting and he urged members to read and digest the strategic plan which Steph had coordinated with a sub-group of the committee. The Chair then thanked key contributors within the committee and also the lead coaches of the junior section. He closed his address by wishing Vicky all the best as the new Chair and the club every success in the future.

Item 2: Treasurer Report

The Treasurer prepared a presentation which is appended to these minutes. In precis:

The Treasurer highlighted the success of Teamo and how that has benefited the Treasurer function, the continued increase in membership (even through Covid times) and a surplus of £6k made in 2020/21 – due to the adults still being charged full match fees. He then gave a breakdown of income and expenditure across the last 5 seasons and demonstrated that both our income and expenditure were down this season (as expected). Points to note were that the pitch hire time is not too dissimilar to previous seasons as we used the pitch in the summer and also extended training sessions post Easter. The treasurer also reported on the current balance standing at approx. £26k (which includes some advance payments for a planned trip next season). One question from PT about the composition of the "Other" category was clarified by the Treasurer.

With reference to the planned subscriptions and match fees for next season the Treasurer provided a very detailed breakdown of the costs with models for a number of scenarios. The success of the club bringing juniors through to the adult teams has had a proportionate impact on the revenue, with the delta between a junior and senior match fee. The proposal put to the AGM (and accepted by the AGM) was to increase subscriptions by 5% and to increase a junior match fee to the same as a senior match fee (for senior games).

In response to a question the committee agreed to review whether parents should be charged a social membership.

The Secretary added one further point regarding the surplus and how this will be ringfenced for a "Project" within the 5 year plan that will benefit all members of the club.

The Treasurer confirmed that Audited accounts should be available very shortly.

Item 3: Junior Section Report

The Junior Chair recalled how he asked parents for patience at the start of the season in the full knowledge that this season would be a challenging one; it was in fact even more so as we didn't really appreciate the challenges we would be facing. The Junior Chair was very proud of the season and thanked all the helpers, including the Covid Officer who made some very astute calls when needed. We got through the season in a C-19 safe manner, washing balls and markers and hope to move onto next season in a positive way. Decision was made that we didn't see enough of the kids playing competitive hockey to have an awards evening, but we will do so next season. Membership continued to increase and we have waiting lists for U8s and U10s, we also have enough boys for 2 x U14 teams, and have seen many juniors representing the club in the senior teams. The Junior Chair referred back to the virtual evening with Fiona Crackles as one of the highlights of the season where she described her hockey journey and how she moved along the pathway – this was very inspiring for many of our juniors. The juniors have performed excellently in representational hockey with 7 selected for the level above county, 3 invited for England trials and 1 to the main U16G England squad only to be narrowly squeezed out when the squad was reduced – but well done Monica, it is great to see someone come through the club and reach such heights. Junior hockey continues to prosper with all 3 girls sides progressing to the next round of the England Hockey competition beating the likes of Trojans and Guildford en route, which is fantastic.

The Junior Chair then described the plans for next season and how we want to be part of the EH Talent Centre set up. This is a programme by EH to increase diversity in the elite game. We have kids from 62 schools across 4 counties with 60% from state schools which demonstrates a greater diversity than many other cubs. We have a great base to grow from. We have the culture and track record to be a credible talent centre and will be expressing interest to EH to be assessed over the course of next season. The plans for the 90 mins training sessions are part of this preparation. Exciting and challenging times ahead! Thanks again to everyone who has helped make this season happen.

Item 4a: Resolution Proposed by the Executive Committee

Changes to the AHC Constitution Part 1: Amendment to List of Club Officers

This motion was voted on and accepted by the AGM unanimously.

Item 4b: Resolution Proposed by the Executive Committee

Changes to the AHC Constitution Part 2: Removal of Reference to Club Colours

This motion was not voted on. Members felt a better solution would be an advance consultation with members and for this point to be revisited if there was a will from the greater membership to change.

Item 5: Election of Officers

Officers were duly proposed and seconded with no position being challenged.

Chair – Vicky Small

Vice Chair – Ian Southgate

Secretary – Martin Green

Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Matthew Steven

Men's Captain – John Wallace
Ladies Captain – Steph Millington Clark
Junior Chair – Jon Swan
Welfare Officer – Gary Ward

The Chair thanked Dave for his contribution and proposed that he be elected a Life Vice President. This was duly passed by the AGM.

Item 6: Election of President and Vice Presidents

The Secretary confirmed that John Smith was happy to continue as the President for which the Chair thanked him and invited him to say a few words. The President expressed his thanks and his amazement at how well the club has prospered. He was delighted at how the club has grown, especially the junior section. He thanked the committee for their well wishes, and in particular Ian for his kind words, in what has been a very difficult year [*for the President personally*]. He spoke of some older members he would be golfing with and confirmed he would continue to try and keep the older members involved.

Item 7: Club Development Plan

The new Ladies Captain presented the 5 year plan to all members. The values, vision and goals were shared along with the key activities the committee felt were key to the growth of the club. This was positively received by the AGM.

Many members expressed their thanks to the committee.