

# THE LX CLUB

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 31 August 2014

At the Mercure Hatfield Oak Hotel

The proceedings opened with the President, Ben Rea, welcoming members to the AGM. The formal AGM opened at 10.10am with Imtiaz Sheikh in the chair and 64 additional members in attendance. A copy of the attendance list is filed in the Minutes Book and is available for inspection.

### 1. APOLOGIES

The Secretary had received 120 apologies for absence - list filed in Minutes Book.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2013

Copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting. The minutes were duly approved by those present, and signed by the President.

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

**Imtiaz Sheikh** opened by thanking Adrian and Rosemary Stephenson and David Gill for the excellent organisation of golf and hockey over the weekend, and the Saturday dinner which was enjoyed by a large number of LXers and their partners.

He also extended a special welcome to new members to their first AGM. He noted that in the past year some thirty new members had joined the Club from all five regions of England. He acknowledged that the Regional Representatives had done a marvellous job in recommending high calibre players for membership. His aim was not only to maintain the Club's playing standard but also to raise the bar every year. In last two years we had done just that.

He stated that the Club should continue to support the traditional fixtures, and to seek new ones to satisfy the needs of a growing membership. To this end there was a need for more commitment from our younger players.

At the 2014 Grand Masters World Cup at The Hague the LX Club had entered four teams in the Tournament Trophy competition and achieved the remarkable of achievement of winning Gold Medals in the 60, 65 and 70 age groups, plus a Silver Medal in the 60s. He congratulated the team captains Richard Slator, Sudesh Nayar, David Ewing and Nigel Strofton and their teams for flying the LX flag so successfully. Including the England national sides, there were total of about 130 players that took part at the World Cup and remarkably 125 of them were LX members! This is a record that all LXers should be proud of.

Turning to LX Committee matters, he said that it was very sad that this year some of our long serving committee members had decided to stand down. He offered his thanks to the committee members who were retiring from their roles: **David Read** [Fixture Secretary], **Robert Purshouse** [Foreign Secretary], **George Hazell** [Team Secretary], **John Longden** [Club Captain], **Graham Martin** [Social Secretary], **Mike Harris** [West Regional Rep] and **David Gill** [East Regional Rep].

He concluded that the Club had come a long way in last year, and the Committee will continue to strive and keep on improving in the areas that we know we need to improve upon.

#### 4. CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

**John Longden** reported that 2013 had ended with a celebration of another successful year at our Christmas Gathering at Oxford and Abingdon. Hockey was enjoyed by 90 members on the newly re-laid pitches at Tilsley Park, followed by lunch at the nearby Oxford Hotel, a new venue for us as we had outgrown the "Four Pillars Hotel" at Abingdon. Including partners, umpires, and guests 180 sat down to lunch.

The first "foreign" trip of the year was the annual attendance at the Lille Tournament. LX had fielded a good mix of younger new members and some of the seasoned regulars, and won the tournament for the third year running, beating Italy in the final. It was a very enjoyable weekend for players and partners, with plenty of good food to sample at local city-centre restaurants. Well done Captain Roger Lomas and Manager Sudesh Nayar.

The trip to Jersey this year was again very successful.. It was more difficult getting the team together as it clashed with the build-up to The Hague. Graham Martin and Tim Pollard put a lot of effort into organising this fixture, and those contemplating 2015 should note that it is well worth taking part, with good hockey, good food and excellent company.

A very successful World Cup at The Hague has been mentioned in the Chairman's report above.

Intra Club fixtures, mainly midweek, are very popular and eight were held over the last twelve months: Bristol, Felsted, Olton, Old Loughtonians, Reading, Southampton [Trojans], St Albans and at Oxford. The Oxford Intra Club day coincided with the Richard Clarke Memorial games, and it is hopeful that we can continue an intra-club fixture at Oxford in the future.

Other fixtures have included in July LX HoTeGo organised over a weekend at Bowdon by Angus Brogdon and Martin Ferrett, and the Welsh Dragons Tournament in Swansea.

To all the people who have been involved as organisers, players, captains, umpires and in any other capacity, in the games mentioned and indeed in all the others not mentioned, John offered thanks on behalf of the membership.

As this was his last report as Club Captain as John was standing down after four years in the post, he also offered thanks for the support he had been given over that time.

#### 5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Keith Hunt** reported that since our last Annual General Meeting:

27 New Members have joined us, plus 8 new Umpires.

Pat Rowley & John Steward have asked to be Non Playing Members.

Rob Allchin has resigned and sadly, Bill Ahern died in January & Warwick Hoyle died in March.

Total Membership: A few of our Members are not only Vice Presidents but some are also Umpires, but if they are still playing we still count them as Playing Members. Some Umpires are still playing and they are included as Playing Membership.

So, as at end-August, Membership consisted of: 6 Vice Presidents (Plus 9 still playing & included in the Playing Numbers), 12 Honorary members, 2 Associate Members, 19 Non Playing members, 25 Umpires and 218 Playing Members – Total 282. (A net increase of 32 over the year).

Keith reminded the members that recommendations for New Members should be made to the appropriate Regional Representative in the first place, and any member can do that. The Regional Representative will then make enquiries and make arrangements to see the individual in action. If deemed suitable, the RR then will discuss his recommendation with the Selection Panel and subsequently the individual will, all being well, be approved by the Committee.

He finished by expressing his pleasure at working with the outgoing Committee during what has been, another fantastic year.

## 6. FIXTURES SECRETARY'S REPORT

**David Read** was pleased to report that there had been over 40 dedicated LX Club games during the last year, which included Intra-Club games at St. Albans, Christmas Gathering at Abingdon, Felsted School, Southampton/Trojans, Reading, Clifton College Bristol, Oxford Hawks, and Old Loughtonians. Additionally Club Days were held at Abingdon (Christmas Gathering) and St Albans (AGM). Our games ranged from Cockermonth in the North Lakes, Exeter in the West, Jersey in the far South, Olton & West Warwickshire Sports Club in the Midlands, plus Harlestone and Norwich in the East.

The Club had also attended tournaments at Lille, Guildford, Swansea, and the World Cup at The Hague. Many LX members also played in EHB games at Cannock, and other fixtures involving the England GMs, GGMs, SGMs and VGMs. He gave his thanks to all those Members who had arranged and managed these fixtures, and also to the Umpires. Without all these getting involved our Club would not function in such a satisfactory way.

## 8. TREASURER'S REPORT

**Ray Jeff** presented his report on the Accounts for the year ended 31/12/2013 (A copy of the Accounts had been sent to all members with the Notice Letter):

He recorded his thanks to Robin Mayes for his independent examination of the accounts.

The accounts were signed off on behalf of the committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 and were received back from Robin Mayes on 12th July 2014.

There was a surplus of £2854 (£1611) for the year and reserves at the year-end stood at £38934 (£36081) of which £10285 (£10285) has been placed into a Tournament Fund being the residue of the Oxford 2012 Fund.

The increase in subscriptions income was due to additional members during the year and my thanks to Keith Hunt for successfully chasing down any outstanding amounts.

Receipts from fixtures were down mainly because there is now no charge to members for intra - club fixtures which includes the AGM and Christmas Gathering. Other fixtures are still expected to contribute a minimum of £25 to LX funds.

European tournament (Kontich) resulted in a surplus of £494, presentation material for the tournament cost £75.

Kit sales produced a small surplus of £42. Current policy is to cover costs only with no profit accruing to the club.

Stocks were up because of increased minimum order requirements.

Debtors were collected in full after the year end and there was a prepayment for the 2014 fixture cards of £152.

The donation of £340 was made to the Florence Nightingale Hospice following the Richard Clarke memorial games at Oxford Hawks.

It has been suggested that the subscriptions should be increased but I am of the opinion that no increase is necessary at the present time.

The current bank balance as reconciled as at 26/08/2014 = £39109.43.

## 9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations had been received for the following Committee offices: **Rob Oakley (East Representative)**, **Alan Dures (Team Secretary)**, **Steven Mills (Foreign Secretary)**, **Roger Girling (Fixture Secretary)**, and **Richard Slator (Club Captain)**. No candidate had yet been found for the position of West Representative. The rest of the existing Committee had offered itself for re-election. Additionally the Committee nominated **Robert Purshouse** for election as a **Member Without Portfolio**. The meeting voted unanimously for election of the new nominees and re-election of the rest of the Committee.

The LX Officers for 2014/15 therefore are:

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
<b>Patron</b>	
<b>President</b>	Ben Rea
<b>Chairman</b>	Imtiaz Sheikh
<b>General Sec.</b>	Sudesh Nayar
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Ray Jeff
<b>Club Captain</b>	Richard Slator
<b>Fixture Sec.</b>	Roger Girling
<b>Team Sec.</b>	Alan Dures
<b>Editor LXer</b>	Adrian Stephenson
<b>Editor Newsletter</b>	David Ewing
<b>Sponsorship Officer</b>	Vacant
<b>Northern Rep</b>	David Ewing
<b>Southern Rep</b>	Geoff Lucas
<b>Midland Rep</b>	Trevor Denison
<b>Eastern Rep</b>	Rob Oakley
<b>Western Rep</b>	Vacant
<b>Foreign Sec.</b>	Steven Mills
<b>Kit Officer</b>	Elaine Hunt
<b>Archivist</b>	Gilbert Grace
<b>Selection Committee</b>	Appointed by Main Committee
<b>Examiner</b>	Robin Mayes
<b>Website Manager</b>	George Hazell
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Keith Hunt
<b>Member Without Portfolio</b>	Robert Purshouse

#### **10. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT**

Based on **David G Read's** enormous contribution to the running of the Club over many years and especially the last seven or so as Fixture Secretary, the members in attendance voted unanimously to thank him for his work and to elect him as an LX Club Vice President for the future. Few will be aware, other than Jean, how much time and effort David has devoted to ensuring the success of the Club. He did more than organising 40 fixtures in a year; he had regular contact with George Hazell, LX Reds Captains and Match Managers about listed players for games as well as contact

with opposition organisers so that the games were always competitive and of a high standard. Many thanks, to David for all of his work and to Jean who also checked David's match reports and lists of fixtures over the years!

**11. LADIES LX PROPOSAL**

**David Gill** proposed that the LX Club members should consider the addition of Ladies hockey players to the LX Club now that there are Over 60s Ladies teams in the World Cup tournaments. The decision was made for club members and committee members to consider the proposal in the next year after hearing from the Ladies Representative about their ideas. A decision is likely to be made at the next AGM in 2015.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Gordon Small reported an 80th birthday on 1st September 2014 for a key LX member, Gerald Wilkinson. Gerald had the praise from all at the meeting and a card was signed for him.

The meeting closed at 11.40am.

SKN/1.10.2014