

THE LX CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 13 September 2015

Abbeydale Sports Club, Sheffield

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 41 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 126 apologies for absence - list filed in Minutes Book.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 31 AUGUST 2014

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:

Welcoming Members to AGM 2015, **Imtiaz Sheikh** thanked Roger Lomas and David Ewing for organising the weekend's events at Sheffield. He also noted all the work Roger had put into the successful organisation of the recent European Cup at Southgate.

He also noted the sad passing of three good members of the LX family – John Oakshatt, Eugene Murphy and Joe Brookes.

He was pleased to report another successful year both off and on the field, when the LX Club had also celebrated its 20th Anniversary. Club finances were in a strong position. Thirty new members had joined in the last year, making a total of nearly 300. An increasing number of teams were being entered in the tournaments, and more importantly their playing standard had improved immensely. The results proved it. LX teams had done very well previously at Kontich and at The Hague. In the recent European Tournament Trophy Competition at Southgate LX teams had won Gold and Silver at over-60, Gold and Bronze at over-65, and Silver at over-70. He noted that lately the gap between Red and White teams had narrowed, reflecting the committee's effort to raise the standard of players being invited to join the Club. He said the Club is now known the world over and is the envy of many hockey-playing Masters Nations. As a matter of fact, at Southgate, one of the international players had asked him if LX was a national team.

He referred to some notable honours awarded to Club members. Ben Rea had been made EH's first Member of Honour at the Lee Valley Stadium, Roger Lomas received a Lifetime Award and Imtiaz himself was recognised for "Services to the World Grand Masters Association".

He expressed his gratitude to all team captains who led their teams so very well at Southgate, and more importantly, to all the players for representing the club with great pride and passion. He also thanked the Selection Committee, ably led by Robert Purshouse, for the difficult job they had undertaken so successfully in selecting LX teams for Southgate.

He reminded the meeting of the contribution Arthur Barber had made to the Club over many years as player, team captain and then from 2002 to 2007 as Club President. He said that the Committee had proposed that Arthur be made a Vice-President, and he hoped the meeting would support the nomination.

Finally he thanked the outgoing committee for its work during the year. The current committee members were wishing to serve again, and Imtiaz hoped the meeting would support them.

4. CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Richard Slator reported that a total of 19 matches were played against other clubs during the 2014/15 season, with 8 wins, 4 draws and 7 defeats.

The following table provides a summary of intra-club days and fixtures involving LX teams only, a total of 14, during the season:

Date	Venue
01-10-14	Olton
23-10-14	Sheffield
19-11-14	St Albans
07-12-14	Oxford
08-02-15	Felsted
24-02-15	Southampton
05-03-15	Wakefield
31-03-15	Old Loughts
08-04-15	Bristol
27-05-15	Timperley
07-06-15	Oxford
03-07-15	Bowdon & Deeside
08-07-15	Oxford (70s)
12-08-15	Southgate

The following table provides a summary of tours and tournaments attended by LX teams during the season:

Date	Venue	Win	Draw	Loss
13-09-14	Cockermouth (3 LX teams)			
13-03-15	Lille	5	0	0
09-05-15	Jersey	0	0	2
20-06-15	Cockermouth (3 LX teams)			
25-07-15	Swansea – Dragon's Festival (3 LX teams)			
02-08-15	Olton (2 LX teams & ABs)	1	0	1

The following table provides a summary of the results for the LX teams playing in the recent WGMA Tournament Trophy competition held at Southgate HC:

Team	Win	Draw	Loss	Position
60s Red	3	1	1	Silver
60s White	4	1		Gold
65s Red	5	1		Gold
65s White	2	2	2	Bronze
70s	2	1	2	Silver

Players' Health & Fitness

Richard stated that ultimately it is the members' responsibility to take all necessary precautions to ensure their safety and wellbeing while playing for the club. However, to assist with this the club had taken steps during the course of the 2014/15 season to provide the necessary equipment in the form of 3 further defibrillators, so that each region had one which could be circulated around venues. Going forward, each Match Manager is responsible for ensuring that a defibrillator is at the venue; the Regional Representative is responsible for the safe keeping of the defibrillator. In addition to the purchase of the defibrillators the club had introduced a Health Form and all members were encouraged to complete this and to ensure that it is with them whenever they play for the club. A suitable plastic container for the form's protection and safe keeping had also been provided, free of charge, by the club.

Additionally, to introduce a bit of fun and challenge Richard had proposed the setting up of a 'virtual' LX Hockey cycling club on Strava. Details are available from Richard.

Selection

In order to continue to improve the standard of player and thus the standard of hockey played by the club a Selection Criteria form had been introduced to assist Regional Representatives and selectors in recording their views of the abilities of prospective new members to the club. Just because one happens to reach 60 and still be playing hockey is not sufficient to gain entry to the club.

To provide an indication of the level of ability being looked for in a prospective new playing member the question is asked "does the player look to have the ability to play at LX Red standard?"

Information Technology

As the club continues to grow in size communication with members becomes more and more of an issue. Email is now clearly the principal and accepted form of contact but there are still a number of members who either just do not read their emails or do not respond as requested. Members were urged to make sure that they do read their emails and act accordingly.

Members would also have noted recently the introduction of the use of Google Forms to obtain feedback from members for events that include the full membership, e.g. AGMs, major tournaments. This reduces the overheads and makes the organiser's task simpler, or it would do if members responded as requested and remembered to 'submit' the form.

Some members may not appreciate the use of such forms but this will be the way forward so it is in their interest to take on board the change and take any steps to assist themselves in doing so.

World Cup – Australia 2016

Richard asked all members to complete and submit the questionnaire that had been circulated with regard to interest in the 2016 World Cup in Australia; this applied even if people believed they would be likely to be playing for one of the National squads. To date the Club had committed to entering 3 LX teams, 60s, 65s & 70s, in the Tournament Trophy competition. The intention was to complete the selection process as early as possible, ideally by early October, so that those selected could make the necessary travel arrangements sooner rather than later. In order to achieve this it was necessary to know who was interested and committed.

A lack of form submission by the end of September would be taken as 'no interest'.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Keith Hunt reported that since the last Annual General Meeting;

23 New Members have joined us, plus 2 New Umpires.

Les Howlett, Crawford McKee, Tony Perryman, John Seear, Phil Realff & David Wilman had resigned and, sadly, John Oakshott died in March & Eugene Murphy died in August.

Total Membership: A few of our Members are not only Vice Presidents but are also Umpires. If they are still playing they are counted as Playing Members. Similarly some Umpires are still playing and they are included as Playing Members. Consequently the Current Membership consisted of: 7 Vice Presidents (Plus 7 who are still playing & included in the Playing Numbers), 16 Honorary members, 2 Associate Members, 33 Non Playing Members, 19 Umpires and 219 Playing Members – Total 296. (Playing Membership had increased by one over the year).

Keith reminded the meeting 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 General Committee. Finally, he add that it has been a pleasure to work with the outgoing Committee during what has been another fantastic year.

6. FIXTURES SECRETARY'S REPORT

Roger Girling started with a look back at the previous year:

He said that Richard Slator had already provided highlights of the various games and tournaments the Club had participated in during the past 12 months. Such games are why we exist and are our life blood. Support of these fixtures by the membership is vital, and Roger thanked them for doing that over the last year. He urged everyone to continue that support by putting their names forward for Club events, and indeed encourage particularly newer members to do likewise. He singled out for praise and gave thanks to all those that had stood forward as Match Managers in the last 12 months.

There was a good spread of fixtures all over the country, getting into the mid 40's for the number of events. New venues included Slazenger HC, Wakefield and Timperley HC, Altrincham, both in the North, a return to Firebrands in the South West, and a new fixture against United Services HC at Portsmouth.

Looking forward, Roger announced that he already had at least 4 new venues in the bag: Khalsa HC, Salisbury, Bude and Spencer HC. All would appear on the Club website in due course, and also in the annual members Handbook.

Finally, with the World Cup being in May 2016, members he noted that the Regional Championships were to be played be on 11th/12th June for 60's and 65's and on 9th July for O70's.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

A summary of the accounts for year ending had been sent to all members with the meeting agenda. A written report for the AGM was sent by **Ray Jeff**, as he was still recovering from a serious injury incurred at a recent LX hockey match.

- He opened by thanking Robin Mayes for his independent examination of the accounts. The accounts had been signed off on behalf of the Committee on 19th March 2015 and were received back from Robin on 8th June 2015.
- There was a surplus of £868 (£2854) for the year and total reserves at the year-end stood at £39802 (£38934).
- The increase in subscriptions income was due to additional members during the year and he offered thanks go to Keith Hunt for successfully chasing down any outstanding amounts.
- Receipts from fixtures were down mainly because there had been more intra - club fixtures, which included the AGM and Christmas Gathering, for which no match fees were

charged. Other fixtures are still expected to contribute a minimum of £25 to LX funds. A charge for intra-club games recommenced as from 1st September 2015.

- The European tournament in The Hague resulted in a surplus of £1495 due to favourable Euro exchange rate. Cost of presentation material for the tournament was £141.
- The current account bank balance as reconciled as at 01/09/2015 was £36260.22p.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Following the 2014 AGM the Management Committee had co-opted **Bill Goodridge** and **Jon Marshall** to the offices of West Representative and Team Secretary respectively. In the AGM Notice members had been informed that the current committee members were all wishing to continue in office for the next year. The AGM unanimously approved their re-appointment.

The **LX Officers for 2015/16** therefore are:

POSITION	MEMBER
Patron	
President	Ben Rea
Chairman	Imtiaz Sheikh
General Sec.	Sudesh Nayar
Hon. Treasurer	Ray Jeff
Club Captain	Richard Slator
Fixture Sec.	Roger Girling
Team Sec.	Jon Marshall
Editor LXer	Adrian Stephenson
Editor Newsletter	David Ewing
Sponsorship Officer	Vacant
Northern Rep	David Ewing
Southern Rep	Geoff Lucas
Midland Rep	Trevor Denison
Eastern Rep	Rob Oakley
Western Rep	Bill Goodridge
Foreign Sec.	Steven Mills
Kit Officer	Elaine Hunt
Archivist	Gilbert Grace
Selection Committee	Appointed by Main Committee
Examiner	Robin Mayes
Website Manager	George Hazell

Membership Secretary	Keith Hunt
Member Without Portfolio	Robert Purshouse

In recognition of their valuable contribution to the LX Club Howard Davis, Sarah Clarke and Patricia Slator were elected as Honorary Members.

9. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Appointment of **Arthur Barber** as Vice-President was duly approved by the meeting following the recommendation which had been made by the Chairman in his report above.

10. LADIES LX PROPOSAL

A proposal had been made at the previous AGM that 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. Following up on this the Management Committee had met with Jean Scott-Miller, who was current England Captain. It was concluded by both parties that at the time there was insufficient interest in Over-60 English Ladies in getting involved beyond participating in international tournaments under the banner of England.

However, following the European Cup in August, it appeared that there was a renewed desire for English Ladies to field a second team in tournaments such as the forthcoming World Cup in Australia. Some LX Committee Members had been asked whether the second England Team could be entered as “an LX team”. Following a lengthy discussion, it was the view of the AGM that the ladies were free to use the letters “LX” in their name, but should not use the term “LX Club” in their name. The Committee should make that clear to the ladies. It was also the view of the meeting that the LX Club should actively support the ladies in promoting their participation in GM hockey at all levels.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Roger Lomas** listed the number of responses he had received to date to the call for members to register their interest in participating at World Cup 2016, the numbers being disappointingly low in all age categories. He urged the rest to respond quickly.
- **Robert Purshouse** informed the meeting that Trophies won by LX and England teams needed to be moved from the Tring Hockey Club. Robert and Ben Rea had been negotiating a move to the National Hockey Museum in Woking, and this was due to happen imminently.
- England Hockey had commissioned the well-known Artist, Tim Bulmer, to produce a ‘Poster’ to commemorate the 2015 EuroHockey Masters Championships. **David Gill** informed the meeting that he was in possession of 7 unsold prints, and was hoping that those present would like to purchase them.
- **Graham Martin** proposed that Members’ Playing Numbers should be listed on their Medical Cards.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.