

THE LX CLUB
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on Sunday 4 September 2016
At the Oxford Abingdon Hotel, Abingdon

The proceedings opened with the President, Ben Rea, welcoming members to the AGM. The formal AGM opened at 10:35 am with Imtiaz Sheikh in the chair and **58** 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 **79** apologies for absence - list filed in Minutes Book.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2015

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:

In his final address as Chairman, **Imtiaz Sheikh** said he hoped that he had carried out his duties over the four-year term with honesty, integrity, fairness, openness and transparency. He thanked all members for the support they had given to him. The LX Club had become a major player in Grand Masters Hockey. Relationships with England Hockey and WGMA had been strengthened. He was confident that the Club would continue to participate in future Tournament Trophy Competitions at European Cup and World Cup Championships.

He was pleased that the Club was growing from strength to strength. Total membership had increased year-on-year. Playing standard had been improving at all age groups. The number of intra-club days had increased. More matches against other club sides were being played. Attendance at International Tournaments was also increasing.

Financially the Club was in a strong position as well, thanks to the diligent management of Ray Jeff as Treasurer. Imtiaz thanked the whole of the outgoing committee for their hard work, and said he was pleased that most of the committee was wishing to stand for a further year.

He extended his sincere best wishes to David Ewing, the prospective Chairman, and to all Members and their partners.

4. CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Richard Slator provided a comprehensive report on events on and off the field:

World Cup – Australia 2016

Having committed early on to entering 3 teams into the WGMA World Cup Tournament Trophy competition, the Club eventually succeeded in sending 4 teams - LX 60 Red & White, LX 65 and LX 70. The second LX 60 team was achieved as a result of the commitment of a number of then non-LX members, all of whom had since joined as members of the Club in recognition of their commitment. The LX 70 team was pulled together as a result of a lot of hard work and persuasion by Peter Danson.

Summary of achievements:

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

Overall it was a very successful tournament for the Club both on and off the pitch and most of the membership who travelled added on a holiday, either before or after the tournament; in some cases both. It was a major commitment both in time and financially and, on behalf of the committee, Richard thanked all those members (and then non-members) who did travel, with commiserations to those who, for whatever reason, were unable to travel.

A point to note is that a few players did travel to play who perhaps should not have done so because of on-going injuries. This had resulted in some players not being able to participate in all matches, which was not only disappointing for themselves but also let the team down. Richard appreciated that the opportunity to play in Australia is likely to happen only once in one's playing career but, with hindsight, maybe the players in question should have been more realistic.

Season 2015/16

The following table provides a summary of results for matches played against other clubs during the 2015/16 season:

| Win | Draw | Loss | Total | Goals For | Goals Against |
|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 11 (8) | 2 (4) | 18 (7) | 31 (19) | | |
| 35% (42%) | 6% (21%) | 58% (37%) | | 41 (26) | 68 (36) |

The numbers in brackets are the summary results for the previous 2014/15 season.

The following table provides a summary of intra-club days and fixtures involving LX teams only, a total of 14 including AGM and Christmas, during the 2015/16 season:

| Date | Venue |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 11/12-09-15 | AGM - Sheffield |
| 07-10-15 | Olton |
| 20-10-15 | Sheffield |
| 18-11-15 | St Albans |
| 06-12-15 | Oxford - Christmas |
| 31-01-16 | Felsted |
| 18-02-16 | Southampton |
| 24-02-16 | Oxford (70s) |
| 03-03-16 | Wakefield |
| 29-03-16 | Old Loughts |
| 06-04-16 | Bristol |
| 13-04-16 | Timperley |
| 21-08-16 | Sheffield |
| 08-07-16 | Oxford (70s) |

For the 2016/17 season it was intended to introduce intra-club days specifically for the 'older' players, e.g. aged70+.

The following table provides a summary of tours and tournaments attended by LX teams during the 2015/16 season:

| Date | Venue | Win | Draw | Loss |
|----------|--|-----|------|------|
| 13-03-16 | Lille (winners) | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 19-06-16 | Tilburg 60+ (winners) | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 19-06-16 | Tilburg 68+ (runners up) | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 07-08-16 | Swansea – Dragon’s Festival, LX 60 Red | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| | LX 65 Red | | | |
| | LX Club | 4 | 1 | 0 |

Players Health & Fitness

Ultimately, it is the member’s responsibility to take all necessary precautions to ensure their safety and wellbeing while playing for the club. It is the Match Manager’s responsibility for ensuring that a defibrillator is at the venue; the Regional Representative is responsible for the safe keeping of the defibrillator.

For the information of new members (and a reminder to existing members) the club has introduced a Health Form and each member is 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 has also been provided, free of charge, by the club. If there was any member who still had not got a container he could get one from Richard.

Richard’s initiative of setting up a ‘virtual’ LX Hockey cycling club on Strava in order to introduce a bit of fun and a challenge amongst the cyclists in the club had come to nothing as no interest was shown. He would therefore be deleting the ‘virtual’ club.

Selection

To continue to improve the standard of player and thus the standard of hockey played by the Club a Selection Criteria form was in use 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 was 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?”

It was Richard’s view that by doing our best to ensure that new members to the club are players of a suitably high standard we are now in the position, certainly at the 60-64 age group, to be able to field 2 teams in tournaments of equal standing, i.e. the teams might be labelled ‘Red’ and ‘White’ but there is really nothing to distinguish between them on the pitch.

Information Technology & Communication

This was really a reminder to all ...

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. Richard urged Members to make sure that they do read their emails and act accordingly.

The use of the Google Form to obtain information from Members for events that include the full membership, e.g. AGMs, major tournaments had been in use for a while. 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 might not appreciate the use of such forms but this will be the way forward so it is in everyone’s interest to take on board the change and take any steps to assist themselves in doing so.

Future Dates

Dates to be put into the diary:

LX Club Christmas Gathering on 4th December.

WMGA European Cup 2017 to be hosted by Scottish Veterans LX Hockey Club and held in Glasgow, making use of the facilities built for the Common Wealth games in 2014. Dates: August 19th to 27th, 2017.

WMGA World Cup 2018 to be hosted by Spain at the Polo Club in Barcelona. Scheduled dates: June 20th to 30th, 2018.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Keith Hunt reported that since the last Annual General Meeting:

29 New Members plus 4 Umpire Members had joined the Club.

Ian Brown & Maurice Williams had resigned, and sadly, Sarah Clarke had died after a short illness. A few Player Members had decided to become Non-Playing Members.

Total Membership

A few of our Members are not only Vice Presidents but some are also Umpires. If they are still playing we still count them as Playing Members. Similarly, some Umpires are still playing and they are included as Playing Members. So, as at 4 September, Membership consisted of: **9** Vice Presidents (Plus 7 who were still playing & were included in the Playing Numbers), **17** Honorary Members, **2** Associate Members, **33** Non Playing Members, **26** Umpires and **243** Playing Members – **Total 330**. (Playing Membership had increased by a net **25** over the year).

For interest, the North had **41** players, the East **52**, the West **47**, the Midlands **39** and the South **64**.

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

Keith also registered his gratitude to the Membership for responding so well to the numerous Newsfliers & emails which they had received during the year. However, responses to some of the general requests, such as this AGM has been disappointing.

Finally, he added that it had been a pleasure to work with the outgoing Committee during what had been another fantastic year.

6. FIXTURES SECRETARY'S REPORT

Roger Girling reported that the 2016 Fixture List was always going to prove tricky as a result of the World Cup in Australia being scheduled in May and the mass exodus of members from the UK that went with it. That, combined with other factors, had brought various challenges but in the end he felt that the Club had provided a comprehensive schedule of games and opportunities with something for everyone.

In his report the Club Captain had already provided a summary of our participation and performances over the last year.

Roger added that, apart from Jersey, Salisbury and Lakes Tour, which could not be scheduled for various reasons, every fixture under our control had been fulfilled and he thanked all match managers not only for their efforts in making sure that we had sufficient numbers for our games

with a suitable balance of players for the fixture, but also in helping to make them enjoyable occasions for players and their partners.

Roger reminded the meeting that these games and tournaments don't just happen. There is a lot of work that goes on in the background and he took the opportunity to remind members to register for fixtures through the LX Website.

The Club tries to get a good spread geographically of fixtures throughout the year, and Roger said it was pleasing to see the re-launch of the North East Tour. There had been successful new fixtures already at Khalsa, Spencer, Bude and the inaugural Tilburg International Super Veterans Tournament.

The 2017 Europeans will be closer to home, in Glasgow. Roger was again looking at entering the tournaments in Lille and Tilburg. A place had tentatively been held in the Eburons Tournament in Belgium. He was hoping to get the Jersey weekend going again. Talking of weekends, he already had the Lakes Tour scheduled in for 2017, plus the NW tour. The 2017 AGM would be held in the West, plus the Christmas Get-together in Abingdon/Oxford.

Roger thanked the membership for their support of the fixtures over the past twelve months. He welcomed any suggestions for improvement, or offers from Members to host an LX match at their clubs.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ray Jeff opened his report with thanks to Robin Mayes for his independent examination of the accounts. The accounts were signed on behalf of the committee on 7th April 2016 and were signed off by Robin Mayes 26th May 2016.

There was a surplus of £1488 (£868) for the year and total reserves at the year-end stood at £41290 (£39802). The increase in subscriptions income was due to increase in membership during the year, and Ray thanked Keith Hunt for successfully chasing down any outstanding amounts. Receipts from fixtures increased mainly because the intra-club fixtures reverted to a match fee to cover the pitch hire costs from 01/09/2015. Other fixtures against external opposition were still expected to contribute a minimum of £25 to LX funds.

The European tournament at Southgate resulted in a deficit of £154 owing to withdrawals through injury to squad members, so the costs of entry fees and presentation material were not fully recovered.

Kit sales produced a small surplus during the year. Current policy was to cover costs only, with no profit accruing to the Club.

The 20th Anniversary Dinner costs were for the provision of meals for our guests, the hotel cost for our guest speaker, sound system hire and programme printing.

The sponsorship of £300 was donated by Andy Fraser towards the purchase of additional defibrillators. During the year the Club purchased three more defibrillators, in addition to the two purchased in 2014 and 2013. So each region now has one available for LX games. The accounting policy is to write off the cost of each machine in the year of purchase. Future costs will be the replacement of battery and pads at three yearly intervals, costing approximately £230 per machine.

Ray was of the opinion that no increases in subscriptions or match fees were necessary.

The current account bank balance as reconciled at 01/09/2016 was £38175.09p

8. “LADIES LX” UPDATE

It was the view of the 2015 AGM that Over-60 Ladies were free to use the letters “LX” in the name of their teams, but they should not use the term “LX Club” in their name. The General Committee was asked to communicate that 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.

David Ewing reported to the 2016 AGM that the Committee had had several discussions with the GM Ladies during the year. Initially the second-string Over-60 Ladies had played in the World Cup in Australia as “LX Lionesses”. Following that they had established a club under that name. More recently they had asked if our club would be happy for them to adopt the name “LX Ladies”. Therefore, the question was asked by David whether this meeting would support that move. There was unanimous support for the ladies to use the name “LX Ladies”. Committee Members who were present informed the meeting that there was no question of the two LX clubs merging in the short-to-medium term.

9. COMMITTEE MEETINGS – TRAVEL EXPENSES

Ben Rea provided the meeting with a brief picture of the travel expenses which are incurred by Committee members in the course of attending bi-monthly meetings, which are usually held at the Olton and West Warwick Hockey Club. The meeting gave the Committee unanimous approval to action payment of travel expenses for such meetings.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In the AGM Notice members had been informed that **Imtiaz Sheikh** was standing down as Chairman, and the Committee had nominated **David Ewing** to be the next Chairman. As a consequence of David vacating the post of North Representative, **Stuart Forrest** had been nominated as David’s replacement. The remaining current committee members were all wishing to continue in office for the next year. The AGM unanimously approved the election of David Ewing and Stuart Forrest, and the re-election of the rest of the Committee.

The **LX Officers for 2016/17** therefore are:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Patron | |
| President | Ben Rea |
| Chairman | David Ewing |
| 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 | Vacant* |
| Sponsorship Officer | Vacant |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Northern Rep | Stuart Forrest |
| 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 |

* It was the preference of the Committee to appoint a new Newsletter Editor from among the members of the new committee. This will be resolved at the first committee meeting following the AGM.

11. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

In recognition of his contribution and achievements as Chairman over four years, **Imtiaz Sheikh** was nominated as Vice-President by the Committee. He was elected unanimously.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- On behalf of Alan Dures, **David Ewing** made an appeal for a Coach for the England Over-75 squad. Duties of the Coach would include selection, organisation of training sessions, fixtures and practice sessions plus squad selection.
- **Eric Best** proposed several new initiatives to improve the playing standard of LXers and also to lift the profile of the Club. Included in his thoughts were “New Tricks”, Brand, New Strip, Publicity/Sponsorship, and representation at England Hockey. The Committee undertook to give consideration to Eric’s proposals at upcoming committee meetings.
- **Mike Patton** proposed that all LX teams at major tournaments should have a Captain, Manager and Coach.
- **Bill Goodridge** suggested that an immediate start should be made on securing flights and accommodation for Barcelona 2018.
- **Steven Mills** expressed a view that Goalkeepers had been unfairly “penalised” at the World Cup in terms of cost of transporting their gear. **Clive Kendall** said that the Club should consider assisting goalkeepers at future tournaments abroad.

The meeting closed at 12:10pm

SKN/12.09.16