

THE LX CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 15 September 2013

At the Hilton Hotel, Warwick

The proceedings opened with the President, Ben Rea, welcoming members to the AGM. The formal AGM opened at 10.35am with Imtiaz Sheikh in the chair and 50 additional members in attendance. A copy of the attendance list is filed in the minute book and is available for inspection.

1. APOLOGIES

The Secretary had received 72 apologies for absence - list filed in minute book.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2012

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

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Imtiaz Sheikh started by paying tribute to Richard Clark, our previous Chairman. Richard is not with us anymore, but his legacy continues. Imtiaz recalled the Richard Clark Memorial Day on 2nd June at Oxford Hawks, when all participants had such a fantastic time. He hoped to continue this as an annual event, and thanked Sarah for allowing the Club to do so.

He thanked his fellow Committee Members for their support in guiding the Club to the success which had been achieved over the last year.

The Club had again managed to hold the AGM in a different region from last year, and thanked Trevor and Brenda Denison for their hard work in making the whole weekend a success. He extended a warm welcome to all members to the 2013 AGM. A special and warm welcome went to all our new members. In the last year some twenty new members had joined, and there would hopefully be another twelve joining soon. Most of the new members were around 60 years of age and had played top level hockey either regionally or nationally. His aim, when he took over from Richard was twofold; first was to increase the membership and second was to raise the playing standard. Success was being achieved on both fronts.

He thanked David Read, our Fixtures Secretary, for his tireless work in setting up a busy and rewarding schedule of matches from year to year.

Emphasis had been also given to social strength and the Committee had continued to make sure that our partners are an integral part of the Club's activities.

The Committee had continued to work closely with England Hockey. With the European Cup in 2015 to be held in England, he said we must cement that special relationship that we have built up with England Hockey Board.

Success on the pitch had been remarkable. Games had been played from Cumbria in the North to Portsmouth in the South, from Exeter in the West to Ashford in the East. Tours beyond our shores included Jersey, Lille (winners) and Barcelona (bronze for the Over-65s).

Lately the Club had taken part in the European Tournament Trophy in Kontich, fielding a record four teams. Our Over-70s and Over-65s Red Team had won Gold, the Over-60s had won Silver. Remarkable success had also been achieved by LXers playing for England teams in the National Tournament at the same venue. Imtiaz recorded his thanks to all captains, who had done a superb job, and he was proud of everyone who had taken part. Thanks also went to our Foreign Secretary, Robert Purshouse, for arranging top-class accommodation in Kontich.

Once more he thanked all members of the LX club and his fellow Committee Members, without whose help and support this club would not be where it is today. LX is envy of other clubs and nations, wherever Masters Hockey is played.

4. CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

John Longden was unable to attend the meeting. His written report was read out by Ben Rea:

- John offered his apologies for not being in attendance at the AGM. Family commitments had left him with a difficult choice.
- To follow a year which included the World Cup in Oxford was always going to be a hard act.
- Once again the club had expanded with new members joining to extend their hockey playing days with a like-minded group of similarly aged players, and to share the success of the LX Club.
- The Intra-Club games had continued to be successful, and to provide games for a large number of players and enabling different age group members to meet up.
- A couple of fixtures (Ashford and Jersey) which are normally well attended and enjoyed, had struggled for one reason or another. It would be great to see these fixtures better supported next year, and also with a few more stronger players to give the opposition a tougher time.
- The tour to New Zealand in January was a great success despite some very strong opposition. The tour was organised by Richard Clarke, our "great tour organiser" who insisted on organising and leading the tour despite knowing how seriously ill he was. Indeed it was only a month after the tour that he tragically died. We all miss Richard very much.
- In March Sudesh Nayar and John Maylam had led the expedition to Lille, where as well as eating lots of "moules", managed to retain the cup they had regained the previous year.
- On June 2nd the club had met in large numbers at Oxford to join Oxford Hawks in holding a "Richard Clarke Memorial Day" when several games were played, and much socialising in memory of Richard. Sarah was present for the occasion, and a presentation was made to her by our club chairman, Imtiaz.
- At the end of June LX two teams went West to celebrate Isca Hockey Club's centenary, and also at the same time two teams played in Barcelona in the Mentors tournament at the Club De Polo. In Barcelona we came up against several countries trying out their national squads for the European Championships later in the year. Roger Lomas and Trevor Denison led their teams magnificently.
- In July the build-up for the European Championships gathered momentum with LX Trophy sides and England squads [Comprising mainly LX members] seemed to be travelling all over the country to hone their skills. Apart from the three England sides, LX also had 1 Over-60., 2 Over-65 and 1 Over-70 teams in the Trophy Tournament, and great success was achieved. LX Over-65 Red and Over-70, and England Over-60 and Over-70 won Gold Medals, and LX Over-60 and England Over-65 won Silver. Not a bad conclusion to a hectic summer.
- Other tours and games had been played throughout the year. On behalf of the membership and the Committee, John thanked the many organisers and captains for their effort. He also thanked club members' wives and partners for their valued support throughout the year.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Twenty New Members had joined the LX Club:

David Bain (Bristol & West), Mick Christopher (Tynemouth), Stephen Crute (Sunderland), Paul Dallas (Huddersfield), Sarbjit Dehl (Leeds), Stuart Forrest (Wakefield), Andy Fraser (Swindon), Geoff Gosling (Cannock), Brian Hiscock (Trojans), Jeff Jackson (Windermere), Max Jason (Spencer), Nick Kennerley (Chesterfield), Rob Oakley (Bedford), Lu Piscina (Somerset Gryphons), Paul Singh (Cannock), John Stone (Olton), Gavin Stones (Basingstoke), Alan Sutton (Belper), Mike Talbot an Umpire, Alan Wade (Reading),

- David Birch had asked to be a Non Player and due to health problem, so had Peter Curtis.
- Sadly 3 Members had died - Mike Labbett, Geoffrey Turk and our Past Chairman, Richard Clarke
- 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. Similarly some Umpires are Honorary Members
- So Membership (on 15 September) consisted of: 14 Vice Presidents (9 of whom are still playing & 1 is an umpire), 12 Honorary members, 2 Associate Members, 16 Non Playing members, 15 Umpires and 203 Playing Members – Total 252. (A net increase of 17 over the year).
- **Keith reminded the membership 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 be approved by the Committee.**
- He expressed his gratitude to the Membership who respond so well to the numerous Newsletters & emails which they receive during the year, and if re elected he would be pleased to keep writing to them!
- Finally, Keith added that it has been a pleasure to work with the outgoing Committee during what has been, another fantastic year.

6. FIXTURES SECRETARY'S REPORT

David Read reported that:

His report broadly covered the period between last year's AGM at the Bristol Holiday Inn (9th September 2012) and the current AGM. The Fixtures details were based on the best available evidence David had been able to research from Match Reports and other sources. (He endeavoured to try and omit those facts which had already been mentioned by others).

This year he had tried to analyse more fully the fixtures: there had been

33 Stand-Alone games

4 cancellations due to weather and non-availability of members. (The latter was a game at Chelmsford in the run-up to the Tournament Trophy at Kontich).

6 Intra-Club games organised by members at Sheffield, St. Albans, Old Laughtonians, Felsted School, Clifton College Bristol, Olton and West Warwickshire Sports Club.

The Club also attended various Tournaments and a Festival, which were Lille, Guildford, Barcelona, Swansea (Festival) and of course the European Tournament Trophy event recently held at Kontich, Belgium. Overall the LX Club had fielded **50 teams** in all Tournaments and the Welsh Festival. Many LX members also played in EH games at GMs, GGMs and SGMs levels.

On behalf of the LX Club David offered sincere thanks to all those members who had assisted in setting up or participating in these **89 fixtures**.

The trend in the fixtures seemed to be towards about 35 Stand-Alone fixtures and Intra-Club games.

In addition to the remaining fixtures in the current year, David already had some 8 games set up for 2014, but he intended to concentrate on arranging matches after the Tournament. The Committee looked forward to new members stepping forward to organise games to supplement existing ones.

Next year, if I am re-elected at this AGM, it would be David's seventh year in the Fixtures Secretary post; so clearly a successor needs to come forward. The position is demanding at times, but at least the individual can work more or less at his own pace, and would need to persuade members to organise fixtures. For the right member it is a very satisfying role.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ray Jeff presented his on the Accounts for the year ended 31/12/2012 (A copy of the Accounts had been sent to all members with the Notice Letter):

- Ray express his thanks to Robin Mayes for his independent examination of these accounts.
- The World Cup income and expenditure figures had not been included in these accounts as The LX Club had acted on behalf of England Hockey in arranging the World Cup at Oxford 2012.
- There was a surplus of £1611 for the year and reserves at the year-end stood at £36081 of which £10285 had been placed into the 2012 fund for the European Tournament to be held in England in 2015 which the club might well be asked to arrange,
- The increase in subscriptions income was due to 20 additional members joining during the year and Ray thanked Keith Hunt for again successfully chasing down any outstanding amounts.
- Receipts from fixtures were down but only due to the fact that there were 2 Christmas gatherings in 2011; otherwise match fees had increased.
- European tournament (Bra) had resulted in a surplus of £395 but presentation material for the tournament had cost £83.
- Kit sales produced a loss of £369, mainly because of old stocks being written down or written off. The current policy was to cover costs only, with no profit accruing to the Club.
- The subscriptions paid decreased owing to a reduction in the subscription to England Hockey.
- The tournament reception (£3115) had been held at the Bodleian Library, Oxford and included the hire of the Hall, drinks, catering, waitress service and a violinist.
- The LXer magazine was a bumper edition, to include the World Cup at Oxford.
- Insurance costs were down owing to a reduction in premium for the same level of cover.
- The AGM reception, 2011, had been held at Magdalen College, Oxford.
- Stocks were up substantially because of increased minimum-order requirements.
- Debtors were Nigel Strofton, £396 for wine sales and a prepayment for the 2013 fixture cards £133 .
- Accruals were for pitch hire at Abingdon (£384) and Oxford (£150), LXer postage costs £132 and wine purchases from Nigel Strofton £527.
- World Cup Members contributions were £17737 over 2 years, a magnificent effort, from 121 members at an average of over £145 each.
- Cost of World Cup hospitality: Magdalen Receptions (3) £4743, Transport (red bus), £6090, Shuttle bus to Dragon School £750, General contribution to World Cup budget £1335.
- World Cup Income: Crafts and coasters £1250, Merchandising £980, Photography £800, Wristbands £270 and profit on wine sales £240.
- A final World Cup 2012 financial report to England Hockey showed a small surplus of £115 after receipt of a grant from EH of £5000.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman informed the meeting that John Maylam was standing down as South Representative after serving in the post for five years, and Geoff Lucas was keen to serve in this post. David Ewing had kindly picked up responsibility for Newsletters from Richard Clarke, and David was willing to formally take up this role. All other Officers were willing to serve for another year. The meeting voted unanimously for election of Geoff Lucas, David Ewing and the rest of the outgoing committee.

The LX Officers for 2013/14 therefore are:

POSITION	2013/14
Patron	
President	Ben Rea
Chairman	Imtiaz Sheikh
General Sec.	Sudesh Nayar
Hon. Treasurer	Ray Jeff
Club Captain	John Longden
Fixture Sec.	David G Read
Team Sec.	George Hazell
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	David Gill
Western Rep	Mike Harris
Foreign Sec.	Bob Purshouse
Kit Officer	Elaine Hunt
Archivist	Gilbert Grace
Selection Committee	Appointed by Main Committee
Examiner	Robin Mayes
Website Manager	George Hazell
Membership Secretary	Keith Hunt
Social Secretary	Graham Martin

10. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

Keith Hunt proposed that Ian Marsh be elected as a Vice President for the outstanding service he had provided to the Club for many years as an Umpire and also for looking after the coordination of umpires at major tournaments. The proposal was seconded by Sudesh Nayar. The meeting provided unanimous support for this nomination.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Over-60s Knock-out Cup

Roger Lomas stated that to date 20 teams had entered the 2013/14 Knock-out Cup. This included individual clubs, individual counties as well as a number of counties joining together to raise a team. Further teams were welcome, but would need to get in touch with Roger urgently. Full list of match dates was available on the EH website.

11.2 Over-75s Category

Imtiaz Sheikh informed the members that the Club had taken the initiative to set up competitive matches for Over-75 players. Contact had been made with the Zeistigplussers in the Netherlands by Brian Woolcott, and agreement had been reached for the inaugural match to be played in Holland on 12 November 2013. At the time of the meeting it was not clear whether this would be an LX Club versus Zeistigplussers event, or an England versus Netherlands match. England Hockey was happy to sanction it as an international, but the Dutch were not yet sure. In any case the match was going ahead. A selection trial would take place at Tring Hockey Club on 10 October. **Eligible players were being contacted by Brian Woolcott.** The LX Club was in the process of recommending names of Selectors to England Hockey.

11.3 Defibrillator Purchase

Imtiaz Sheikh stated, following a serious health alert at the World Cup in Oxford, the Club had purchased a Defibrillator. It would be available at major events organised by LX. Training would be provided to members to ensure there was adequate cover across the regions. **Further information would be available through Newsletters and at the Christmas Gathering.**

11.4 Isca Centenary Celebrations

Bill Goodrich thanked the Club for helping to make Isca's celebrations in June a great success. A video of the proceedings was in preparation.

11.5 Reminder from the Team Secretary

George Hazell reminded members that a key part of the process of entering on the Website availability of individuals for LX matches is an email from George acknowledging their entry. If a member has not heard back from George within 5 days, it should be assumed that his entry has not registered. **In this case there would be a need to re-enter availability.**

11.6 Timing of Regional Tournament 2014

As the World Cup in 2014 will take place in June, members asked if the Regional Tournament, which is normally held in May, could be re-scheduled. **The Committee would discuss at the October meeting and consider an approach to England Hockey.**

11.7 Christmas Gathering

Sudesh Nayar reminded members that the 2013 gathering was scheduled for Sunday, 1 December. Hockey games would be played on the St Edwards School pitches in Oxford, and lunch was booked at The Oxford Hotel, which is close to the pitches. **Further details would be sent in a Newsletter.**

11.8 East Masters

David Gill offered a view that with a growing level of activity in the East Region there might be a case for a Regional LX Group. **It was agreed that the subject should be discussed by the Committee.**

The meeting closed at 12.05pm.

SKN/23.09.13