

THE LX CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 10 September 2012

At the Holiday Inn, Filton , Bristol

The proceedings opened with the President, Ben Rea, welcoming members to the AGM following “the biggest and best year in the Club’s history”. The formal AGM opened at 11:10am with Richard Clarke in the chair and 38 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 92 apologies for absence - list filed in minute book.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2011

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

3. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE LX CLUB CONSTITUTION:

The following statement had been distributed to the membership in advance of the meeting:

Proposed Amendment to Club’s Objectives

To take account of the recent changes in the role of the LX Club whereby the selection on National teams at ages of 60+ is now undertaken by the England Hockey Board, it is proposed that the Club’s Objectives shall now be as follows:

“2. Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the Club will be:-

- To provide the opportunity for members to continue to enjoy and play over 60s hockey including: matches against other *veteran* teams in the UK and abroad; entering hockey tournaments in the UK and abroad; and organising hockey tours within the UK and abroad
- To provide a positive and social environment for members and their wives and partners in the context of over 60s hockey and also the staging of gatherings and events independent of hockey

3. Membership

To achieve these objectives the Club will invite players (on either side of their 60th birthday) to become members provided such potential members have previously played and continue to play to a high standard (in special circumstances the requirement of a high playing standard may be waived).

Membership is by invitation from the Club Management Committee after recommendation by the Club Selection Committee.

Members will be enrolled in one of the following categories:

- Full playing members
- Umpire members
- Non-playing members, generally past players who wish to maintain in contact with the Club and support its objectives
- Honorary members, non-players who provide, or have provided services to the Club in support of its objectives

- Vice Presidents, generally non-players whose service to the Club is exceptional and deserving of recognition by members
- Associate members”

Laurie Alcock proposed that the word “veterans” should more appropriately be replaced by “masters”. His suggestion was seconded by Gerald Wilkinson and, with this amendment, the change to our constitution was approved by the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

Richard Clarke welcomed members to the 2012 AGM at Bristol. He reported that:

- Consistent with our nomadic LX Fixture style, the Committee planned to continue to hold our AGMs at different regional locations – thanks to Mike Harris and his colleagues for their excellent organisation this weekend.
- Unlike many who are often reluctant to recognise the benefits of change, new blood and new thinking, Richard was standing down as Chairman this year in favour of his good friend and Chairman Elect Imtiaz Sheikh. In his tenure of office the committee had sought consolidation of LX as a major force in Veteran Hockey along with the challenges of an ever expanding membership. Emphasis had continued to be given to traditional hockey fixtures with the added spice of a number of overseas trips and UK tours. Considerable emphasis had been given to our social strength, ensuring our partners were both welcomed and had options other than just touch- line support. Non-hockey events included a dinner at the Houses of Parliament and a Reception at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Prudent husbandry enabled the Club to go forward with a strong balance sheet.
- One of the future challenges which Richard had asked Imtiaz to take up was ensuring the LX Club, and what it has to offer, was better known to the younger generation of potential members, and particularly that its capabilities were understood and appreciated by England Hockey, where the true partnership of earlier years, in his opinion, needed to be fully recovered.
- There could be no better example of this than the recent successful staging of the World Cup in Oxford. I was mentioning no names, but some 110 LXers had donated funds to ensure that the Tournament ‘stood out’ for its overseas visitors. Over 60 LXers and other partners provided active help ranging in areas from Liaison Officers, volunteers for the Information Tent, Parking, Restaurants, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Tournament Programme, the World Cup website, Tournament Organisation and so on. An incredible effort by so many of us. During the Tournament a number of our ladies, on their own initiative, sold mementos and other items (many made by themselves) and raised the best part of £3000 in support of the World Cup. Here lay one of the many strengths of the LX – not an attitude of ‘what can the Club do for us’ but rather ‘how can we help the Club’. Well Done!
- The LX Club Hockey year had included many fixtures, many successes and always a good time! Not possible without an outstanding committee, and he meant outstanding: hard working and working as a team. Amazingly all were willing to stand again, with the exception of David B Read, our Midlands Representative. Our thanks to all of them, whose ranks Richard would join as the Newsletter Editor, subject to the meeting’s approval. But the committee did need fresh blood, so he urged members to consider donating 2 or 3 years of their time to serve on the committee.

5. CLUB CAPTAIN’S REPORT

John Longden reported that:

- The results of the world cup at Oxford may not have been as successful as its predecessor in Cape Town two years ago, but our teams taking part came away with medals in all categories. In the National competition it was Bronze for England Over 60s, Gold for England Over 65s, and Silver

for the Over 70s. In the Tournament Trophy it was Gold for the LX Over 60s, Gold and Silver for the two LX Over 65 teams, and Silver for the 'hard pressed' LX Over 70s.

- However the real success of the World Cup at Oxford was the superb planning, organising and execution of the whole event. It was without doubt the best, and enabled everybody to participate and have a great time in a unique, "Olympic", atmosphere. More people than over the last five World Cups not only played, but stayed on to enjoy the experience, and there even seemed to be more people at the end than at the beginning. It was great seeing some of our older members making the trip on some of the days to see the 'youngsters' play.

He added his thanks and appreciation to the key organisers Bob Purshouse, Richard Clarke, Roger Lomas, Keith Hunt and Ray Jeff, and also to the multitude of LXers and their ladies who supported the event in a multitude of ways. Oxford Hawks members were also tremendous, and did their club proud led by their Ground and Facilities manager Nigel Biggs. Mike Talbot as Tournament director, with help of numerous people, made sure the tournament ran pretty close to its timetable despite the occasional diversion. It was a truly excellent experience which will be remembered a long time.

- Turning to other events, the club had expanded over the year, and there was still a waiting list of people wishing to join.
- Midweek games again proved popular and were well supported with games organised at Felsted School by Mike Surrige, Bristol by Mike Harris., Olton by Trevor Dennison, Reading by Keith Hunt., Sheffield by Roger Lomas, St Albans by Nigel Strofton, and a North East tour by David Ewing. With the growing number of members, and perhaps increasing age there was room on the fixture list for one or two more intra club fixtures. He invited members wishing to organise matches to contact the Fixtures Secretary.
- In March LX again attended the Lille tournament and although expecting to meet the Welsh side in the final, ended up beating a rampant Italian side (who had beaten the Welsh), and regained the Trophy. Martin Ferret was outstanding in goal on his first tour with the Club. A well organised trip by Sudesh Nayar, with the team captained by Richard Clarke.
- In April Andy Holden organised an "Athens 2004 reunion" fixture in Kendal, and a full team plus wives and an interloper turned up to play two games over the weekend and enjoy a few refreshments in between.
- In May the highlight was probably the annual trip to Jersey with two squads travelling with wives and partners to enjoy some tough hockey, some very good food and some retail therapy!! There was also some golf played. Many thanks again Graham Martin and David B Read for organising the players and Tim Pollard for the Jersey side of things.
- In June five teams represented LX in the European Tournament at Bra in Italy. The party comprised of some 74 players plus partners. Despite a less than perfect hotel a great time was had, and in the three competition Over 60s and Over 70s came away with Gold Medals and the Over 65s won Silver Medals.
- In July, despite various problems caused by teams preparing for the World Cup in Oxford, Martin Ferrell and Angus Brogdon organised a successful weekend at Bowdon and Deeside Wanderers.
- Many other games were organised and played during the year in amongst the selection and training games for Oxford. To the numerous members involved in the organisation John offered his thanks on behalf of the membership. Many reports of these encounters can be seen on the LX website. Members were urged to keep tuned in, and to make sure they got their bids in for selection for the games they wished to play in.
- Looking forward, he anticipated another busy year.

6. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Keith Hunt reported that:

- Since the last AGM 20 New Members had joined the LX Club: Steve Branston (Trojans), Peter Curtis (Oxford Hawks), Richard Danson (Sheffield), John Donnelly (Timperley), Peter Finnie (Harleston magpies), Geoff Furneaux (Hereford), Nigel Guppy (Havant), Robert Harris (Cannock), Leslie Howlett (Dereham), Philip Hutley (Chelmsford), Clive Kendall, (Worcester), Henrik Kjellin (Hampstead), Jon Marshall (Somerset Gryphons), Peter McCollum (Kingston upon Hull), John Ridings (Huddersfield Dragons), David Sheridan (St Albans), David Thompson (Rugby), John Tripp (Firebrands), David West (Eastbourne) & Kenneth Wooding (Chelmsford)
- Chris Jones (Umpire Member) and Patrick Rowley had rejoined. Peter Ashton had resigned. Playing Membership stood at 189 plus 2 Associates. With Vice Presidents (8 non playing) & 14 Non Playing Members, 6 (Non Playing) Umpires & 16 Honorary Members, total membership had risen to 235.
- He reminded the meeting that new members are invited to join the LX Club normally through taking part in the Regional Grandmasters Tournament, rather than a personal sponsored application. However recommendations can be made to the Selection Panel of suitably talented players. The Chairman of that panel will then make appropriate enquiries and make arrangements for the player to be seen in action.
- Keith expressed his gratitude to the Membership for responding so well to the numerous emails which they had received during the year (especially those associated with the recent World Cup), and if re elected he would be pleased to keep writing to them!

7. FIXTURES SECRETARY'S REPORT

David Read reported that:

- In summary, by September some 35 fixtures were due to be fulfilled, which included Intra-Club games at St. Albans, Felsted School (Essex), Reading, Bristol and West Warwickshire Sports Club near Solihull. Short tours had been arranged in Lille, the North-East, Jersey, Cockermouth in the Lakes, Bra in Italy, Cardiff, Bowdon and Swansea. Many thanks went to the Match Managers of all these arranged games, and to the players, supporters and umpires who had contributed.
- In addition to the LX Club games, there had also been at least another 15 games, tournaments and practices at all levels, leading up to the World Cup/Tournament Trophy in Oxford, and many LX members had been involved in organisation and playing in these fixtures.
- A review of the LX Club fixtures still indicated that the majority of these were arranged by the older members, ie Over 65s, although some younger members were beginning to take on the responsibility of setting up games. After the highly successfully organised World Cup and Trophy Tournament, fixtures for the end of 2012 and for 2013 needed be considered. There was a need to provide an increased number of fixtures taking into account the many new LX Club members accepted. The need for these fixtures would be accentuated because the number of EH fixtures would be reduced in 2013, with only the European Cup/TT at R. Beerschot Tennis and Hockey Club at Kontich, south of Antwerp, and the annual established home internationals.
- Already there were some 12 fixtures set up for 2013, with another 5 under consideration, but it was considered that a target of 45-50 fixtures for 2013 should be the aspiration.
- In 2013 the LX Club wished to continue with the Welsh fixtures at Cardiff and Swansea with some aspects to be improved. There were likely to be two new fixtures in Norfolk (an Intra-Club game midweek probably in April, and another LX Club fixture versus a Norfolk Over 60s team). There was also the opportunity for a Sheffield weekend to be arranged prior to the European Cup/TT.

- Over the years the Club had received invitations to several tournaments in the Netherlands, and one of these could be accepted if an LX organiser was identified.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ray Jeff presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011, which had been independently examined by Robin Mayes, and had been distributed to all members with the meeting agenda. He expressed his thanks to Keith Hunt for chasing up debtors, and to Robin for examining the accounts.

For the year there was a surplus of £2,346 (2010 surplus of £1,659). At the year end, the Club's net assets stood at £ 27,810 (2010 – £23,764) of which £ 2,890 was in stock (kit and Olympic tickets).

The main items were as follows :-

Income

- £5,810 From subscriptions and joining fees, broadly similar to 2010 (£5,960)
- £2,354 From match fees. This included Abingdon, as the event was postponed to January 2011 from December 2010.
- £2,454 Sales of kit

Expenditure

- £ 8,472 European tournament costs
- £ 1,455 European tournament reception
- £ 1,226 For the LXer magazine, including postage
- £ 680 AGM reception
- £ 2,810 Cost of kit sold

The Club's bank balance at the year end was £25,085 (2010- £18,336).

- Ray noted that the LX Website had been revamped during the year (thanks to George Hazell for overseeing the changes). Club shirts had been issued free to the membership. Another excellent LXer magazine had been funded. LX receptions for members had been funded at Neuss and at the AGM in Oxford. The aim with tournaments remained that these should be largely self-funding.
- Richard Clarke added that at £20,000 the bank balance was reasonably healthy. Above that the committee has looked to see some money coming back to the membership – through shirts, receptions, etc.
- David Ewing asked if the World Cup accounts had been finalised. Ray Jeff advised that some accounts were still coming in, but his expectation was that we would break even. Robert Purshouse added that England Hockey had contributed £5,000 towards the cost of staging the World Cup. He acknowledged Ben Rea's influence in making this happen.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of Ben Rea as President and other officers as set out in the attached list was proposed by Richard Clarke, seconded by Sudesh Nayar and approved unanimously.

10. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

The following new Vice Presidents were elected:

- Richard Clarke was nominated and elected for his excellent leadership of the LX Committee, in driving the Club to new heights on the hockey field as well as on the social calendar. His

contribution to the staging of the World Cup at Oxford Hawks Club was also acknowledged, as was his role in arranging several overseas tours which the membership have enjoyed.

- Robert Purshouse was nominated and elected for the invaluable role he has played over the years as Honorary Secretary, managing the Club's overseas tours, and leading the World Cup 2012 organising committee.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Electronic Communication

Adrian Money brought to the meeting's attention that members who own older versions of Microsoft Office had difficulty opening some of the attachments with email communications. A member suggested that openoffice.org should deal with this issue.

11.2 Isca Hockey Club

Bill Goodridge informed the meeting that his club would be celebrating its 100th anniversary with a hockey festival on June 22&23 2013. More details would follow from Bill and David G Read.

11.3 Over-75s Hockey

Gurney White had written to the Hon. Secretary that LX and the organisers of Masters hockey give consideration to extending official tournaments to the Over-75 group. There was wider support for this request at the meeting. The club committee should follow up.

11.4 Future European and World Cup Tournaments

Robert Purshouse advised that the next European Cup was to be held in Belgium over August 17-25 2013, and the next World Cup in Holland over June 5-13 2014.

The meeting closed at 11:45pm.