

## **Surrey Hockey Association Ladies League AGM Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Barnes HC**

### 1. Apologies for absence:

Committee: Terri Foggin (Matchday Secretary); Angela Durnin (Fines Secretary)

Clubs: Oxted

### 2. Presentation of trophies to 2017 Division Champions

Premier	Tulse Hill & Dulwich 2
Division 1	Epsom 2
Division 2	London Academicals 1
Division 3	Guildford 2
Division 4	Camberley & Farnborough 1
Division 5	Surbiton 6
Division 6	EUHC Gamblers London 1
Division 7	Clapham Common
Division 8	Guildford 3
Division 9	Barnes 6
Division 10	Old Cranleighans Vamps
Division 11	Guildford 4

### 3. Chairman's report

Marilyn thanked the Committee for all their hard work over the last year and particularly Laura for her excellent administration of the Match Report Forms, Terri Foggin for her continued hard work managing the League program and Jo Firth for setting up and running the Surrey Cup and Surrey Plate competitions this year. Lucy Muldoon was also thanked for her input this season although, due to work pressures, she has not been able to devote the time required for the role. Marilyn presented Jo Firth with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for her hard work over several seasons.

The return of the Surrey Cup after many years was a great success with most games being closely fought and resulting in excellent finals of both the Cup in which Clapham Common beat Barnes by 4 goals to 3 and the Plate which saw Surbiton beat London Edwardians by 3 goals to 1.

Marilyn mentioned a recent article in the Hockey News about umpires being an overlooked part of hockey and asked that everyone think more about umpires, thank them for their help and compliment them when they have a good game.

Altogether, it has been a good season with fewer than issues raised than in recent seasons.

### 4. Election of Officers

Committee nominations (no nominations received from other parties) were:

Chairman - Marilyn Walker (Tulse Hill & Dulwich)

Secretary - Janet Slater (Reigate Priory)

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Results Secretary – Laura Aalen (Barnes)  
Matchday Secretary - Terri Foggin (Oxted)  
Registrations Secretary - Liz Aeissame (Leatherhead)  
Website Administrator - Liz Aeissame (Leatherhead)  
Fines Secretary - Angela Durnin (London Wayfarers)  
Standing down: Jo Firth; Lucy Muldoon

There were no objections to the proposals. Marilyn Walker asked anyone interested in joining the League Committee contact the Secretary.

### 5. Outstanding fines

Angela Durnin was unable to attend at the last minute so no fines update was available but the Secretary undertook to follow up with Angela after the meeting. The fines spreadsheet is normally made available at every League meeting then sent out with the meeting minutes.

### 6. Promotion/relegation policy

The Secretary explained that this issue had been discussed at every meeting but that it was important for the Committee to reflect the general consensus from the clubs about how the League should be run so asked for comments on the current policy of automatically promoting 1<sup>st</sup> placed teams and relegating last placed teams but leaving the decisions about any other movement to the League Committee.

- Old Kingstonian expressed a preference for automatic promotion for the top 2 teams but flexibility on other movement and this was echoed by Spencer who also wanted more certainty.
- Tulse Hill & Dulwich countered that it was difficult to give more certainty on promotions without doing the same with relegation so supported the current policy. This sentiment was supported by Camberley & Farnborough, EUHC Gamblers, Croydon & Old Whitgiftian, Horley and Old Georgians.
- Guildford expressed satisfaction with the flexibility of the current policy was not happy with more than one new club being entered into a division that turned out to be too low for the team(s) resulting in very one-sided games and the existing clubs not being promoted. This position was supported by Bank of England. In response to this, the Secretary explained that every effort was made by the Committee to assess the relative strength of any new League entrant above the bottom division but that it was not always possible to enter new teams as high as they might wish as the express wish of the clubs was that existing teams not be relegated to make way for new teams. This means that new teams can only enter the League if there are spaces.

After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was still that the Committee should have the flexibility to decide on promotions, relegations and League entry with only 1<sup>st</sup> and last place being automatically promoted/relegated.

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### 7. Friendly divisions

The Secretary explained that, as discussed at the last League meeting of the season in March, the League would be setting up a friendly division on FixturesLive that would sit outside of the League structure for promotions and relegations. This would allow clubs to have a friendly scheduled every 3 weeks or so to give them a start for their new teams but there would not be any requirement about player eligibility or when the fixtures are played. The standard is intended to be at about Division 11/Back to Hockey so would not be suitable if teams were aiming to prepare a playing record to ask for entry to the League above the bottom division.

There are currently 5 teams on the list that expressed an interest (Croydon & Old Whitgiftian; Horley; Leatherhead; Purley Walcountians; Reigate Priory) so other clubs have until the end of June to advise the Secretary if they would like to enter a team into the friendly League. The Secretary and the Matchday Secretary will set up the new Friendly Division in July and advise the clubs when this is done.

### 8. Proposed changes to League rules

#### New rule 4.6 (Existing rule 4.6 to be renumbered 4.7):

If a division has scheduled matches on a date that is a slip date for other divisions then the teams may normally only play players who have played 50% of their games in that team, or players from lower teams. If there is a query regarding any individual players, please contact the League Secretary well in advance of the match date.

Passed unanimously.

#### Amendment to rule 7.3(b):

Any team that does not return a Match Report Form ~~at all will be subject to a fine or points deduction determined by the League Committee~~ **before the next scheduled League game within 2 weeks of the fixture will be deducted 1 point and a further point will be deducted for each subsequent League match that takes place until the Match Report Form is received. This penalty is to apply for all Match Report Forms not submitted.**

*Guidance: The captain of the team, as recorded on FixturesLive, will receive a warning email before any points deduction in time for the Match Report Form to be submitted*

There was a lengthy discussion about whether there should be a points penalty for an administrative issue. Laura Aalen pointed out that the existing rule already allows the Committee to impose a points deduction but it is not set out under what circumstances the penalty would be imposed. Many clubs were concerned that multiple points could be deducted before the team captain was either aware of the issue or, if she had gone on holiday straight after the game, before she returned. The proposal was therefore amended to allow more time before any points deduction and to add the guidance that the team captain would be advised by email in advance of any points deduction so that she has time to submit the form.

The proposal, as amended, was passed by 23 votes to 4

#### Amendment to Rule 8.1:

- (a) Teams in the Premier Division may have umpires appointed to their matches by Surrey Hockey Umpires Association if there are sufficient Surrey Umpires available. Clubs with a team in this Division are encouraged to provide an umpire for the pool. It is

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the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that appointed umpires are contacted by the due date and are welcomed both before and after the game.

- i) If the Umpires Association cannot appoint an umpire(s) then both the clubs concerned must provide a **Level 1** qualified umpire for the fixture.
  - ii) If either or both the appointed umpires fail to arrive, the match shall be postponed if both teams fail to agree to replacement umpire/s. If it is agreed that a player will be nominated as a replacement umpire(s) then the home team must nominate a player to umpire, in which event the away team must also withdraw a player from the game. Both players may rejoin the game if the appointed umpire arrives. If both umpires fail to arrive, the same rule shall apply with the away team also nominating a player to umpire.
- (b) Teams from Division 1 are required to provide a Level 1 qualified umpire**
- ~~(bc)~~ Teams from Divisions ~~1, 2 and 3~~ **2, 3 and 4** should endeavour to provide an umpire with a recognised umpiring qualification, e.g. Level One, Surrey Umpire Award, to umpire their own matches.
- ~~(ed)~~ Teams from Division ~~4~~ **5** and below must provide a competent umpire to umpire their own matches. Umpires for these matches should be of suitable experience and standard and ideally working towards gaining an umpiring qualification if they do not already possess one.

This proposal was discussed at length with several clubs expressing concern that they would not have anyone with a Level 1 umpiring qualification in time for the beginning of next season. Marilyn Walker explained that this change was flagged at last season's AGM as a response to the many complaints about the poor standard of umpiring, particularly in the higher divisions. Jane Hallett (Purley Walcountians and senior Surrey umpire) advised that there was a Level 1 Umpiring Course at Purley Walcountians on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and another one at Old Georgians in September and details could be found on the England Hockey website. It was also possible for clubs to organise their own courses and both Marilyn and Jane would be willing to come and assess any level 1 candidates if a suitable date and match could be found.

Passed by 24 votes to 5.

### New rule 9.5 (subsequent rules will be renumbered):

Any team that drops out of the League after the fixtures have been published will not be permitted to rejoin the League the following season.

Marilyn explained that the reason for this proposal was that there had been a number of instances over the last few seasons when a team had applied to join the League then dropped out either just before the season started or shortly after the start. This caused considerable disruption to the other teams in the division, particularly last season when London Academicals 2 applied for entry after the 31<sup>st</sup> March deadline, was admitted despite this leading to an odd number of teams and 4 additional League weeks for Division 11 then pulled out on 19<sup>th</sup> August in order to join the London friendly league.

London Academicals, having been refused entry for their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI this season due to their late withdrawal last season, expressed concern that this proposal effectively prevented smaller clubs from expanding. Mitcham also expressed concern that this might prevent them from rejoining the League if they had been automatically relegated due to conceding too many games but the

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Chairman reassured them that this was not what the proposal states. Addiscombe supported the proposal and this was echoed by several other clubs around the room.

Passed by 21 votes to 5.

### Amendment to rule 9.6 (9.7 following renumbering):

All fines incurred before Christmas should be paid by 31<sup>st</sup> December and all fines incurred in the second half of the season should be paid by ~~the AGM~~ **2 weeks after the last scheduled League date**. Any fines unpaid after this date will be doubled and must be paid within ~~28 14 21~~ **21** days of ~~the AGM~~. If the fine is still not paid, then the team will be suspended from the League.

There was quite a long debate over how long teams should have to pay fines but the Secretary explained that the intention is to ensure that all the season's business is concluded by the end of April so the proposal was amended to require payment within 21 days of the last League date and was then passed unanimously.

### 9. 2017 - 2018 League dates

23/09/17 LEAGUE  
30/09/17 LEAGUE  
07/10/17 LEAGUE  
14/10/17 LEAGUE  
21/10/17 LEAGUE (Division 11 only) / SLIP DATE 1  
28/10/17 Half term / SLIP DATE 2  
04/11/17 LEAGUE  
11/11/17 LEAGUE  
18/11/17 LEAGUE  
25/11/17 LEAGUE  
02/12/17 LEAGUE  
09/12/17 LEAGUE  
16/12/17 LEAGUE (Division 11 only) / SLIP DATE 3 (all other divisions)  
Christmas break  
06/01/18 LEAGUE (Divisions 11 only) / SLIP DATE 4 (all other divisions)  
13/01/18 LEAGUE  
20/01/18 LEAGUE  
27/01/18 LEAGUE  
03/02/18 LEAGUE  
10/02/18 LEAGUE (Division 11 only) / SLIP DATE 5 (all other divisions)  
17/02/18 Half term / SLIP DATE 6  
24/02/18 LEAGUE  
03/03/18 LEAGUE  
10/03/18 LEAGUE  
17/03/18 LEAGUE  
24/03/18 SLIP DATE 7  
31/03/18 Easter weekend  
07/04/18 SLIP DATE 8

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10. Any Other Business

- Surrey Cup competition next season – Marilyn asked for a volunteer to pick up the baton from Jo Firth and offer to run the competition next season. Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary.
- 2017-18 League meeting venues – the following clubs offered to host one of the 3 League meetings next season: Wimbledon; Surbiton; Old Georgians; Woking; Guildford; Leatherhead; Horley. The Secretary will sort out 3 dates on different nights of the week at clubs in different parts of the county.

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**Committee attendees:**

Marilyn Walker (Chairman); Janet Slater (Secretary); Laura Aalen (Results Secretary); Jo Firth (General Committee); Liz Aeissame (Registrations Secretary);

**Club attendees:**

Club	Representative
Aces	Debora Corfield
Addiscombe	David Roche; Jenny Wyllie; Tom Nixon
Bank of England	Natalie Lamb
Barnes	Linda Lonsdale; Frances Feehan; Kate Goate; J Ward
Berrylands	Hannah Oliver; Emily Waterhouse
Camberley & Farnborough	Keri Wilson; Ali Gardner
Chertsey Thames Valley	Nicky Johncock; Clare Bowman
Clapham Common	Jemma Overmire; Katherine Bannon
Croydon & Old Whitgiftian	Lena Lewal
Epsom	Nettie Peacock; Andy White
EUHC Gamblers	Rosie Griffin; Beth Evans
Kenley SP	Lyn Davies
Leatherhead	Ann-Marie O'Neil
London Academicals	Hannah Newton; Ed James; Sophie Ingleby
London Wayfarers	Bryony Harrap
Merton	Hannah Easton
Mid Surrey	Helen Hawes
Mitcham	Emma Hau
Old Freeman's	Nicky Linsell
Old Cranleighans	Nicky Goldsmith; Elizabeth Norrington
Old Georgians	Emma Kramer; Sarah Kay
Old Kingstonian	Georgina Perry
Purley Walcountians	Jane Hallett
Reigate Priory	Janet Slater
Richmond	Alison Bennell
Sunbury & Walton Hawks	Nikki McAndrew; Lisa Hannick
Surbiton	Ellie Vickery; Chrissie Wilson-David
Tulse Hill & Dulwich	Clare Byrne; Ciara Nugent
Wanderers	Isla McGillivray; Nic Phillips
Wimbledon	Georgina Headley
Woking	Vicky Derman

Club absentees: Cheam; Cranleigh; Oxted; Royal Holloway; Surrey Spartans