

Surrey Hockey Association Ladies League AGM Minutes Wednesday, 20th June 2018 at Barnes HC

1. Apologies for absence:

Committee: Terri Foggin (Matchday Secretary); Laura Aalen (Results Secretary)

Clubs: Surrey Spartans; Oxted;

2. Presentation of trophies to 2018 Division Champions

Premier	Barnes 2
Division 1	Old Georgians 1
Division 2	Tulse Hill & Dulwich 3
Division 3	Barnes 3
Division 4	EUHC Gamblers London 1
Division 5	Barnes 4
Division 6	Purley Walcountians 1
Division 7	Royal Holloway
Division 8	Tulse Hill & Dulwich 5
Division 9	Camberley & Farnborough 2
Division 10	EUHC Gamblers London 2
Division 11	Guildford 5

3. Chairman's report

Marilyn Walker started her report by thanking the League Committee for their hard work throughout the year to enable the smooth running of the League. The clubs responded by applauding the Committee which was much appreciated.

The 3 League meetings were all well attended and a range of issues were raised and discussed. The minutes of all the meetings are available on the League's website. Marilyn thanked the host clubs, Woking, Wimbledon and Old Georgians. Marilyn made the point that the League is run for the benefit of the clubs and it was very important for clubs to participate in the discussions and decision making.

This year was relatively uneventful from a League Committee perspective until the very end of the season when a combination of a series of weather affected weekends and complaints about teams fielding ineligible players made it a very hectic end to the season for the Committee.

4. Election of Officers

Marilyn Walker advised that although Terri Foggin is willing to stand as Matchday Secretary for another season, she does now live in Yorkshire so would not want to continue after next season and anyone interested in the position should let the Secretary know.

The nominations were seconded by Linda Lonsdale (Barnes) and Jo Firth (Surbiton) and passed unanimously:

Chairman - Marilyn Walker (Tulse Hill & Dulwich)

Secretary - Janet Slater (Reigate Priory)

Results Secretary – Laura Aalen (Barnes)

Matchday Secretary - Terri Foggin

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Registrations Secretary - Liz Aeissame (Leatherhead)

Website Administrator - Liz Aeissame (Leatherhead)

Fines Secretary - Angela Durnin (London Wayfarers)

5. Outstanding fines

Fines Secretary, Angela Durnin, provided a list of outstanding fines and asked that clubs check the list before they left. Fines can be paid by cheque or, preferably, by direct bank transfer. The deadline for payment has been extended to 30th June. Angela advised that a copy of the fines spreadsheet will be sent out with the AGM minutes.

6. Promotions/relegations

The Secretary briefly went through the promotion/relegation policy of 1 up/1 down automatically then any other movement at the discretion of the League Committee and asked whether any clubs had any objection or comment to make about this approach. There was very little comment and the consensus was that the Committee should continue to have the flexibility to decide on promotions, relegations and League entry.

7. Restructure of bottom divisions

The Secretary explained that, following discussions and requests made at League meetings held during the season to have a more regional structure for the bottom divisions, the Committee had decided that the best way to achieve this was to amalgamate divisions 10 and 11 (23 teams) then split them into 3 Division 10s: North, Centre and South with no club having more than one team in a division. This resulted in divisions of 8 teams (7 for South) so only 12 league games followed by play-offs for the top teams across all 3 divisions at the end of the season to decide the promotion places. Epsom and Guildford both emailed their concern about the proposed structure before the AGM so it was decided to put the decision and possible alternatives to the clubs for discussion and to vote on.

There followed a very long discussion with several clubs expressing concern over the low number of league games and consequent lack of competition and different opposition. Many teams were worried that availability for friendly games would be poor and result in many more games being called off especially if the opposition was further away in an attempt to play different teams. Most clubs did not think that travelling long distances to league games was such a big problem.

Following the discussion, the Chairman asked for clubs to vote on 3 questions:

- Should Division 10 be split into 3 regionalised divisions? 1 vote
- Should Division 10 to be split into 2 regional divisions? 4 votes
- Should the existing division 10 and 11 structure be retained? 24 votes

The decision was therefore to retain Division 10 and 11 with 23 teams between them so 22 league dates will be required for each division. The affected clubs will be advised of the amended divisions and league dates.

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8. Friendly division

The Secretary read out the list of teams who have asked to be involved in the friendly division and asked that any other clubs interested in taking part email her by the end of the month. Surbiton Casuals were accidentally left off the original list so were added back in.

The format of the friendly league was explained: The Secretary provides the clubs concerned with a fixture list and it is then up to the clubs to add the fixture to FixturesLive as a friendly if they decide to go ahead with it. There are no league rules so anyone can play and the dates can be changed to whenever the teams concerned wish to play. The idea is to provide an easier way of starting up or maintaining a friendly side in the hope that the team will eventually be in a position to apply to join the league.

Horley asked if the list of friendly division teams could be put on the League website as a point of reference for interested teams. Liz Aeissame confirmed that this would be done and the Secretary will provide the list once the fixtures have been sent to the clubs.

9. Proposed changes to League rules

Amendment to rule 5.10 – passed unanimously

Club uniform shall be worn by players participating in League matches in accordance with ~~England Hockey~~ **FIH** uniform regulations. In the event of a clash of colours, the away team shall change shirts and socks if necessary. Field players participating in each game shall wear ~~skirts and~~ different numbered shirts, and any additional clothing must be of the same colour as the corresponding item of clothing. Goalkeepers must wear shirts contrasting in colour with those of both teams and must wear protective equipment as specified in the Rules of Hockey.

Addition to rule 6 (Postponements) – Spencer

Teams should use any or all of their registered players to fulfil a fixture and clubs must ensure that the team playing in the highest division, or placed highest in the same division, honours fixtures in priority to the lower teams. Forfeiting the highest level fixture whilst playing lower division games will result in a fine or points deduction.

Spencer explained that the proposed rule change is to try to ensure that it is always the lowest level team that forfeits a game if a club is short of players. This was objected to by several of the smaller clubs with big gaps between their teams on the basis that it was unrealistic and potentially dangerous for players to move up a significant number of divisions to play and it could back-fire and mean that even more players made themselves unavailable. The proposal was rejected by 21 votes to 1.

Amendment to rule 9.1 (Penalties) - Spencer

Any team that concedes a match will be deemed to have lost the match ~~4-0~~ **5-0** and will be deducted ~~one~~ **two** additional penalty points. **The game will not be rescheduled.** If, at the end of the season, the goal difference of a conceded game makes a difference to promotion or relegation positions then the scoreline of the conceded game will be adjusted to the average goal difference over the season of the team that conceded the game.

Spencer explained the reason for the proposal: they believed that the current rules do not provide enough of a deterrent to teams thinking of conceding a game and that the penalties are out of line with other hockey leagues. There followed a long discussion about the merits of various levels of penalty but the consistent comment was that teams do not concede games lightly. Horley felt that the proposed penalties provided too much of an advantage to the team

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that was willing to play and this was echoed by Surbiton. Richmond was in favour of a higher scoreline but wondered if there could be separate rules for higher and lower divisions.

Following the discussion, Marilyn Walker asked for a separate vote on each element of the proposal:

Proposed default scoreline:

- 5,0 – 4 votes for
- 3,0 – 30 votes for
- 1,0 – 3 votes for

Proposed points penalty:

- 2 points – 1 vote for
- 1 point – 24 votes for

The rule will be amended to award a 3,0 win to the non-conceding team and to deduct 1 point from the conceding team. The text about the game not being rescheduled is redundant so will not be included.

Amendment to rule 7.1

The home team must ~~return~~ *update FixturesLive with* result of the match to the League by 6.30pm on the day of the match. The result ~~should be submitted by text to the League's results service or should be emailed to the Fixtures Matchday Secretary only in the event of failure of the text~~ *FixturesLive update* service. Each team may inform the League of their scorers using the FixturesLive web service.

Guidance Note: Walkovers should not be ~~texted to~~ *updated on* FixturesLive; instead, email the ~~Results & Matchday Secretaries~~ who will update FixturesLive.

Amendment to rule 7.5 Guidance

Guidance note: Teams must remember to check that ~~the SMS text response has been received from~~ FixturesLive *has been updated*, because if it has not then they must email the result to the Matchday Secretary.

Both the above amendments to rule 7 were passed unanimously without discussion but a request was made for details of how to update match results FixturesLive to be circulated to clubs which the Secretary undertook to do with the pre-season email to clubs.

Amendment to Rule 8.1:

- (b) Teams from Division 1 *and 2* are required to provide a Level 1 qualified umpire
- (c) Teams from Divisions ~~2, 3 and 4~~ *3, 4 and 5* should endeavour to provide an umpire with a recognised umpiring qualification, e.g. Level One, Surrey Umpire Award, to umpire their own matches.
- (d) Teams from Division ~~5~~ *6* 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.

The proposal was unanimously rejected but it was voted that the same proposal should be put to clubs at next season's AGM so that they will have had a whole year to prepare for the change by getting more umpires qualified and assessed.

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10. 2018 - 2019 League dates

The following dates have been amended to cater for the decision to retain the existing division 10 and 11 structure as both divisions require 4 more league dates than divisions with 10 teams.

22/09/18 LEAGUE
29/09/18 LEAGUE
06/10/18 LEAGUE
13/10/18 LEAGUE
20/10/18 LEAGUE (Div 10 & 11) / SLIP DATE 1
27/10/18 Half term / SLIP DATE 2
03/11/18 LEAGUE
10/11/18 LEAGUE
17/11/18 LEAGUE
24/11/18 LEAGUE
01/12/18 LEAGUE
08/12/18 LEAGUE
Christmas break
05/01/19 SLIP DATE 3
12/01/19 LEAGUE (Div 10 & 11) / SLIP DATE 4
19/01/19 LEAGUE
26/01/19 LEAGUE
02/02/19 LEAGUE
09/02/19 LEAGUE
16/02/19 Half term / SLIP DATE 5
23/02/19 Half term / SLIP DATE 6
02/03/19 LEAGUE
09/03/19 LEAGUE
16/03/19 LEAGUE
23/03/19 LEAGUE
30/03/19 LEAGUE (Div 10 & 11) / SLIP DATE 7
06/04/19 LEAGUE (Div 10 & 11) / SLIP DATE 8
13/04/19 SLIP DATE 9
20/04/19 Easter weekend

Any Other Business

- Surrey Cup competition next season

The Chairman thanked Jo Firth (Surbiton) for organising the competition for the past 2 seasons but advised that Jo is standing down from organising the competition next year so asked for a volunteer to take over. Jo reassured clubs that the competition required very little work as all the fixtures were organised by the club themselves with Jo facilitating by providing the draw and arranging the finals. She advised that the same 2 umpires have officiated at both sets of finals for the last 2 years and were willing to do so again next year. If anyone is interested then please contact the Secretary.

- 2018-19 League meeting venues

The Chairman asked for clubs to contact the Secretary if they were willing to host one of the 3 League meetings next season.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

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Committee attendees:

Marilyn Walker (Chairman); Janet Slater (Secretary); Liz Aeissame (Registrations Secretary);
Angela Durnin (Fines Secretary)

Club attendees:

Club	Representative
Addiscombe	Jenny Wyllie; Tom Nixon
Barnes	Linda Lonsdale; Lotte Peplow; Ashley Bradford
Berrylands	Sarah Candy; Teresa Parke
Camberley & Farnborough	Keri Wilson; Ali Gardner; Claire Baldrey
Cheam	Gill McDonnell
Chertsey Thames Valley	Helen Dolan; Monique Grace; Jade Jones
Croydon & Old Whitgiftian	Lena Lewal
Epsom	Nettie Peacock; Andy White
EUHC Gamblers	Rosie Griffin; Laura Williamson
Guildford	Maggs Kyte
Horley	Judith Shuttleworth; Louise Gormley
Kenley SP	Karrie Bassett
Leatherhead	Liz Aeissame
London Academicals	J Solowiej-Wedderburn; Natalie Gill
London Edwardians	Philippa White
London Wayfarers	Georgia Spain; Jen Blackwell
Merton	Hannah Easton
Mid Surrey	Helen Hawes
Mitcham	Emma Hau
Old Freeman's	Nicky Linsell
Old Cranleighans	Emma Hawes
Old Georgians	Emma Kramer
Old Kingstonian	Harriet Lay; Andrea Cole
Purley Walcountians	Gemma Hallett; Paige Salvage
Reigate Priory	Janet Slater
Richmond	Anna Smith
Spencer	Harriet Chambers
Sunbury & Walton Hawks	Nikki McAndrew
Surbiton	Chrissie Wilson-David; Jo Firth; Sunny Pottay
Tulse Hill & Dulwich	Ellen Phillips; Lucy Muldoon; Philippa Page
Wanderers	Nicola Phillips; Jenny Douglas; Kat Gordon; Emma ?
Wimbledon	Joanna Close
Woking	Ellie Paynee

Club absentees: Aces; Bank of England; Clapham Common; Cranleigh; Oxted; Royal Holloway;
Surrey Spartans