

SHALL AGM Minutes 2014

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Hockey Association Ladies League held on Thursday, 8th May 2014 at Barnes Hockey Club

Committee Attendees: Marilyn Walker (Chairman); Janet Slater (Secretary); Terri Foggin (Matchday Secretary); Nicky Parry-Jones (Results Secretary); Liz Aeissame (Registrations Secretary); Angela Durnin (general committee)

The meeting was opened at 8.10pm by the Chairman, Marilyn Walker.

1. Apologies for absence: Bridget O'Leary (Website Administrator); Mid Surrey; Croydon & Old Whitgiftian
2. Presentation of trophies to 2014 Division Champions by Marilyn Walker and a group photo was taken by Angela Durnin to record the occasion:

Premier	Barnes 2
Division 1	Spencer
Division 2	Wanderers 3
Division 3	Leatherhead 1
Division 4	Reigate Priory 2
Division 5	Barnes 3
Division 6	Surrey Spartans 1
Division 7	Spencer 6
Division 8	Wimbledon 3
Division 9	London Wayfarers 7
Division 10	Chertsey Thames Valley 1
Division 11	Barnes 6

3. Chairman's report

Marilyn Walker gave a brief resume of the season. It was good to see the spread of clubs represented by the division champions and this, together with the lack of any Surrey teams being relegated from South and the addition of 6 new teams to the League (set against the loss of only 3 teams during the season) showed that Surrey hockey is in a healthy state. League meetings were well attended and spread around the county; thanks were expressed to the clubs who hosted meetings (Cheam, Wimbledon & Surbiton). Fines are steadily being paid and Angela Durnin is doing a good job with fines administration.

Following on from her general round up, Marilyn explained there had been a couple of appeals against relegation from teams that had finished 9th in their division and been relegated and that she would invite the representatives of the teams concerned to make their case to the meeting but she first set out the Committee's process for deciding the promotions and relegations: before starting the meeting, the Committee discussed the approach to be used to determine whether to promote, relegate or leave a team in the same division. The approach was to favour promotion over relegation if there were a choice between not relegating a team in 9th position or promoting a team in 2nd or 3rd position in the division below unless there were a compelling reason not to do so, such as a large points gap.

Lucy Muldoon representing Tulse Hill & Dulwich 3 in Division 1 objected to the way promotions/relegations were decided because:

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- It was not clear from the beginning of the season what the aim was for the competing teams
- The number of promotions/relegations differed from last season and between divisions this season
- The Committee at no stage informed clubs that they would make decisions about promotion/relegation

Royce Waters representing Old Georgians 1 in Division 2 objected to their relegation from Division 1 because:

- He agreed with the points made by Tulse Hill & Dulwich
- Old Georgians had specific availability issues this season that would not apply next season and they had several national league standard players intending to join the club next season meaning that they would be very competitive in Division 1

The Secretary, Janet Slater, briefly refuted the point made by Tulse Hill & Dulwich about an apparent lack of communication from the Committee about promotions/relegations to say that the issue had been raised and minuted at last year's AGM and two of the League meetings this season and those minutes had been sent out to all club representatives within 3 weeks of each meeting. Whether the information was then made available to team captains within a club was the responsibility of the club representative.

The Results Secretary, Nicky Parry-Jones, pointed out that the Committee was made up of people from 7 different clubs and there was absolutely no question of any bias when making important decisions. If a Committee member's club was involved in an issue then that member did not take part in the discussion and decision about their club.

Marilyn then asked for comments from the floor:

- Reigate Priory (Camilla Thrush) did not agree that teams did not know what they were playing for and said that there is a common acceptance that the bottom 2 teams in a division are likely to be relegated
- Purley Walcountians (Janet Hallett) and a number of other representatives voiced their agreement.
- Surrey Spartans said that teams just go out and play to win and accept either promotion or relegation as the result of that.
- Addiscombe (Michael Lockton) said that Addiscombe I had also finished in 9th place and had been relegated but he expressed his satisfaction with the Committee response to his email questioning that decision
- Spencer (Jen Slin) said that her experience of the Surrey League is that the divisions are getting stronger and the fact that more teams are joining South league without any Surrey teams being relegated shows that the promotion/relegation policy is working.
- Cheam (Lois Hare) suggested that a note be added to FixturesLive to make it clear that promotion/relegation is only guaranteed to for the first/last placed team.
- Guildford (Maggs Kyte) spoke out in favour of allowing the Committee to use their judgement

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The discussion lasted for about 45 minutes at which point Marilyn brought it to a close and summarised the main points. She agreed that it would be useful to add a brief explanation of the promotion/relegation approach to the SHALL website (as there is not enough space on FixturesLive) and to the Guidance for Captains document that is sent out at the beginning of each season.

Marilyn thanked everyone for their input and reminded them that the Committee is there to manage the League according to the will of the clubs so if a change of direction is wanted, that needs to be expressed and discussed.

4. Proposed changes to League rules:

i) Amendment to Rule 3.6 (Management) - shown in bold italics

“All League business related to the previous season must be completed by the AGM. If a club has a dispute regarding their team’s placement in a division, this must be made know to the League Committee by ***the earlier of 15th May, or 2 weeks before the AGM***, and concluded by no later than 31st May. After this time, no further amendments may be made to the structure of the divisions.”

Proposed by Linda Lonsdale (Barnes) and seconded by Ellie Vickery (Surbiton) and was carried unanimously.

ii) Amendment to Rule 7.2 (Notification of Match Results)

Amend the second sentence to:

“A completed match form is required from each fixture. Before the game both teams should complete their list of players for the fixture including names and shirt number ***or, ‘GK’ for the goalkeeper (if no goalkeeper is fielded then all players must have a shirt number against their name)***. Players should be listed in alphabetical order by Surname...”

Proposed by Natalia Anda (Epsom) and seconded by Jane Hallet (Purley Walcountians) and was carried unanimously.

Amend the final sentence to:

“The home team should then return the form to the Results Secretary to arrive no later than midnight on the Wednesday following the fixture ***and should retain a copy in case of non-arrival with the Results Secretary.***”

Proposed by Linda Beere (Chertsey Thames Valley) and seconded by Jen Slinn (Spencer) and was carried unanimously.

iii) New Rule 7.4 (Notification of Match Results) and current rule 7.4 to be renumbered 7.5

“If a scheduled match does not take place then the home team must either update FixturesLive to move the date of the match to the next available slip date or, if that is not possible, email the Matchday Secretary by midnight the following Wednesday. Failure to do so will result in the home team being fined £10.”

Proposed by Bronwyn McAllister (Barnes) and seconded by Sarah Candy (Berrylands) and was carried unanimously.

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As a point to remember for next year, the Secretary reminded the meeting that if a rule change is to be voted on at the AGM, it must be received more than 2 weeks beforehand so it can be added to the agenda that is sent out in advance of the AGM. No rule change proposals were received for clubs this season.

5. Election of Officers:

Marilyn thanked the Committee for all their hard work during the season but also in the off-season. There was a special mention and thanks for Bridget O'Leary's contribution to the League as Website Administrator as she is standing down from the Committee after several years.

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

Chairman – Marilyn Walker (Tulse Hill & Dulwich)

Secretary – Janet Slater (Reigate Priory)

Matchday Secretary – Terri Foggin (Oxted)

Results Secretary – Nicky Parry-Jones (Bank of England)

Registrations Secretary – Liz Aeissame (Leatherhead)

Website Administrator – Liz Aeissame (Leatherhead)

Fines Secretary – Angela Durnin (London Wayfarers)

General Committee - Jo Firth (Surbiton)

Marilyn thanked Liz for offering to take on the role of Website Administrator as no other offers to take over were received but asked anyone keen to take on the role to contact the Secretary.

The nominations were proposed by Natalia Anda (Epsom) and seconded by Michael Lockton (Addiscombe) and was carried unanimously.

6. 2014-2015 Divisions & League dates

The list of league dates provided with the agenda incorrectly provided for only 2 extra dates for divisions 10 & 11 when, in fact, 4 additional dates were required, so the following list is the corrected version:

20/09/2014	LEAGUE (Divisions 10 & 11 only)
27/09/2014	LEAGUE
04/10/2014	LEAGUE
11/10/2014	LEAGUE
18/10/2014	LEAGUE
25/10/2014	Half term
01/11/2014	LEAGUE
08/11/2014	LEAGUE
15/11/2014	LEAGUE
22/11/2014	LEAGUE
29/11/2014	LEAGUE
06/12/2014	LEAGUE
13/12/2014	LEAGUE (Divisions 10 & 11 only) / SLIP DATE ! (Prem - Div 9)
20/12/2014	SLIP DATE 1 (Divisions 10 & 11 only)
Christmas Break	
10/01/2015	LEAGUE (Divisions 10 & 11 only) / SLIP DATE 2 (Prem - Div 9)
17/01/2015	LEAGUE
24/01/2015	LEAGUE
31/01/2015	LEAGUE
07/02/2015	LEAGUE

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14/02/2015 Half term / LEAGUE (Divisions 10 & 11 only)
21/02/2015 Half term / SLIP DATE 2/3
28/02/2015 LEAGUE
07/03/2015 LEAGUE
14/03/2015 LEAGUE
21/03/2015 LEAGUE
28/03/2015 SLIP DATE 3/4
Easter Weekend

Surrey Spartans expressed concern that the League programme started before the university term started but they were reassured that they could rearrange those games scheduled for before their term started. They were asked to do this promptly when the fixtures are published so that their opposition have plenty of notice. This option is only available to university sides.

7. Any Other Business

- Outstanding Fines

Angela Durnin read out the list of clubs with fines still outstanding and Marilyn Walker asked that those clubs speak to Angela individually at the end of the meeting. In total this season, about £750 worth of fines have been issued.

- FixturesLive promotion/relegation lines

This was discussed earlier in the meeting

- 2014-15 League Meeting venues

Offers to host a meeting next season were received from Camberley & Farnborough, Barnes, Bank of England and Purley Walcountians.

- Maggs Kyte from Guildford HC had emailed the Secretary with a proposal to run a Back to Hockey festival with some financial support from the League. The Secretary apologised for not having responded to the email. Maggs explained why she believed the League should provide support for such a festival: it's a priority for England Hockey to encourage adults back into the game; youth hockey is already very well provided for whereas there is very little organised for adult entry level hockey; she has found that it is difficult to get the Back to Hockey groups to take the next step into playing matches.

Maggs was hoping to run the festival on Sunday, 22nd June but this is the weekend of the Surrey Youth Games so it may make attendance difficult. The London Youth Games are being held the previous weekend. Maggs will look again at dates.

Marilyn Walker expressed the general support of the Committee to help with funding but asked for more details about the proposed event before making a commitment. The Secretary offered to email the clubs with details to ascertain interest in taking part once more information was available.

Marilyn Walker thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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Club representatives' attendance:

Club	Representative
Addiscombe	Mike Lockton
Bank of England	Susanne Dixon
Barnes	Linda Lonsdale
Berrylands	Sarah Candy; Teresa Parke
Byfleet Ramblers	Royce Waters
Camberley & Farnborough	Keri Wilson; Hannah Rowe
Cheam	Lois Hare; Claire Ramsay
Chertsey Thames Valley	Linda Beere
Cranleigh	Debra Scutt
Epsom	Natalia Anda
EU HC Gamblers London	Charlotte Scudamore
Guildford	Maggs Kyte
Leatherhead	Steph Woodman
London Edwardians	Eleanor Clark
London Wayfarers	Sophie Gosling; Ali Bovill; Jasmine Walton
Merton	Tracy Frazer; Megan Loppers
Mitcham	Emily Delehanty
Old Cranleighans	Sarah Tucker
Old Freeman's	Nikki Linsell
Old Georgians	Royce Waters
Old Kingstonian	Harriet Lay
Oxted	Terri Foggin
Purley Walcountians	Jane Hallett
Reigate Priory	Camilla Thrush; Janet Slater
Spencer	Myra Sae-Heng

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Club	Representative
Sunbury & Walton Hawks	Nicky McAndrew
Surbiton	Ellie Vickery
Surrey Spartans	Lezanne Denton; Charlotte Pennels
Tulse Hill & Dulwich	Lucy Muldoon
Wanderers	H MacAdam; C Gunn
Wimbledon	Nicola Hanger