



**East Grinstead Hockey Club: Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (Virtual): Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Tamoor Abdullah, Kirstie Beedle, John Bladen, Rory Britten, Carolyn Burchell, Jason Coleman, Nicole Collingwood, Phillip Coote, Bob Garton, Roger Hanspal, Owen Hill, Wes Jackson, James Leman, Richard Leman, Simon Longhurst, Peter Malkin, Terry Pullin, David Sumpter, Dave Thomson, Jordan Torilla, Chris Vallis-Wilson, Katie Wood

**Apologies**

Rachel Coleman, Chris Gregory, Lottie Gregory-Young, Mark Hollis, Siobhan Hollis, David Lloyd, Jo Malkin, Ann Needle, Ian Taylor.

---

**1. Opening Remarks & housekeeping**

Phillip Coote (PC) welcomed all to the meeting and thanked members for their attendance.

The meeting is to focus primarily on the club's constitution and as you may recall, for those present at the last AGM, it was recognized that the constitution needed to be updated to reflect the club as it is today. Secondly, courtesy of England Hockey (EH) change to the new pathway, the club wishes to apply to become a Talent Center and potentially move towards establishing ourselves as a Talent Academy. As part of this process, it was necessary to submit our 2003 constitution which EH have rejected. Therefore, it is essential to update this as soon as possible to enable us to move forward in the process.

We have therefore developed a constitution (which was provided as part of EGM announcement) which we would like to ask you to vote upon. This may require refinements/amendments and these can be incorporated and submitted for a further vote at the AGM in April/May of this year.

In addition to the constitution and as you are here with us, we would also like to share with you a mid-season update.

Housekeeping: Nicole Collingwood outlined housekeeping points including that the meeting will be audio-recorded and that microphones will be muted during presentations to avoid noise disturbances however these can be unmuted and questions raised. NC confirmed that the voting rights for the meeting are based on the existing 2003 constitution which is all adult members over 18 years old. Voting will be via raising a hand with camera's on and/or via audio at the invited time. Names of those registered for the meeting and eligible to vote were displayed along with those who have submitted a vote by Proxy.

**2. Proposed EGHC Constitution (Carolyn Burchell)**

*Why change?*

Current version has been in place since 2003 and there have been a number of changes during that time and so required modernization in places and to also be simplified. The old constitution does not reflect the club as it is today and the people and the sections which have evolved over the years. The constitution also does not



meet the expected standard as required for us to obtain EH Clubmark accreditation (EH accreditation is a standard imposed on all amateur sports clubs). The club are unable to progress without this clubmark.

*What's changed?*

Modernisation: we needed to update the document to be open and transparent – to recognise potential issues, e.g. discrimination, people/vendors.

Simplified: We have tried to make it as easy to read as possible and to understand what it says. We have also made it shorter so more digestible. The detail from the constitution will be incorporated into the Club Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and policies such as governance, finance, safeguarding etc.

There's a section on membership applications and resignations which has been removed completely which is normal, we're too big for this to be included.

There's also a general broadening of the outlook, previously very focused on the sports club whereas we use various vendors.

The dissolution of the club part has been simplified as it was previously confusing and ambiguous.

Composition of the Committee: we have changed that to having one treasurer role for the whole club with a finance committee, previously one for ladies and admin. Our desire is to operate as one club and not have it working as separate units.

No EH rep within this constitution however there is an option in the future if we did wish to have one with the inclusion of 1-2 independent members.

The core for the general meetings, any general meeting whether that be an AGM or EGM, has been changed from 12 to 15. Feedback has been received that this should exclude committee members and whilst this is not reflected in the version circulated, this is a very valid point and will be included in the refinements to be voted at the AGM. This prevents the situation where the Committee could just vote through what they want themselves.

Voting rights: previously all members except juniors and minis. Voting rights will remain with all adult members and VPs (who have lifelong membership) plus there will now be 14 votes given to the junior section. This has been calculated to allow each of the junior age groups to have 2 people to come forward to represent and vote at the meetings. Currently, the engagement from our junior section is very low and part of the reason for this is that they do not have a voice when it comes to voting. We recognize there are some concerns however if you wish to view the overall numbers: we have 142 members this year and 60 VPs. Even allowing an overlap between adult and VP member votes, you can see that the number of junior votes is not really going to impact or change the way things are run.

*Questions raised:*

- Bob Garton, queried the voting numbers of two-thirds of attending members with concern that a small number could in effect vote to dissolve the club if only a small number of eligible members were present to vote. Discussion took place regarding whether a minimum group size or percentage of total membership would need to be present or represented. It was thought exact numbers could not be stipulated as this can vary pending membership number. It was also highlighted that any topics such as a dissolution must be communicated and announced in advance to all members and thus members can determine whether they are interested and wish to attend and vote or not. Proxy votes are also possible. Some further thought will be given to this for the refinements which will follow and be voted on at the AGM.



- SL raised whether changes to the constitution can be voted upon at an AGM as well as an EGM. This was confirmed as being any General Meeting called by the club so yes AGM and EGM.

*Feedback Received (Jason Coleman)*

We have received some feedback from Members to date which have included a number of spelling and grammatical corrections and these have been adopted. There were some others that asked for clarifications and refinements however because of the voting procedures, what we propose to do is ask for a vote on the published constitution which was circulated 21 days ago with the understanding that any refinements and any clarifications will be included in an updated version which will be circulated and voted on again at the AGM.

RL in agreement with this as to vote on subsequent changes now would make the vote invalid.

**3. Voting on Published/Circulated Constitution** (Nicole Collingwood)

Nicole repeated the vote, i.e. voting on the circulated constitution in its current form (with spelling/grammar changes adopted). Based on those present on the call, there are 16 eligible votes plus received in advance were 4 proxy votes and 2 abstaining proxy votes.

The vote was called and 12 votes were in favour of approving the revised constitution plus the 4 positive votes by proxy.

PC thanked the members for their presence and vote.

**4. Mid Season Update**

Phillip Coote: We as a club are working through a difficult time with WAVE who have had difficulties including staffing. I have to thank the committee and members at this time as they have sorted out catering, worked behind the bar to keep it open when we have been hosting, cleaning the dug-outs etc. We talked at the last AGM about bringing in Meraki – this has been achieved and has allowed us to:

1. Commercially offer digital coupons which will help our sponsors
2. Stream matches in high definition
3. Launch our own TV, currently have 392 subscribers. Simon is targeting 1000.

Amazing progress bringing technology to the club. Another thing we have done as a committee, the charity had the bar refurnished and we have just put in two new trophy cabinets.

***Ladies Section:***

In terms of premier league, we are in the top 6 and 3 points off the top of the table. They are through to the finals of the Copper Box Indoor having secured the EH Cup which is sitting proudly in the trophy cabinet.

Alex Malzer is now part of the GB programme.

Ladies 2s sitting 7<sup>th</sup> in the table, mixture of results but really starting to gel as a new team and new coach. Ladies 3s growing in strength and now sitting 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ladies 4s, similarly gaining in strength week by week and also sitting in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Pleased to say that a marketing campaign has been run and has successfully



generated 18 new lady members.

### **Mens Section**

6 men's teams, 1-5 and a vets team plus cup teams. That's about average for clubs however when comparing with other local clubs we are massively out performing them. We are also managing to retain strong memberships where other local clubs are seeing a decline.

M1: Just managed to squeeze into the top 6 which is a huge achievement. We have also made the top 4 indoor like the ladies. Going to be a tough 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the outdoor season.

M2/3/4/5 all in the top 4 of their league's. The objective is to get promoted and they're all on track with that with the exception of maybe the 2s which are slightly further behind. Vets are the team struggling the most and that's down to injuries, availability and COVID. Thankfully Richard Payne and Mikey Holland working on this and looks to be improving.

Just to comment that the Clubhouse is looking better than it has for the last 15 years and the men are spending more time there. Thanks also to Lottie who has been managing and helping to organise the match tea's. Its had a huge impact and created a great atmosphere.

### **Junior Update**

All very positive, great place with 370 kids as joined members. Another 29 who are trialling so 399 kids playing hockey. Our outreach programme into local schools is going well, we are providing coaching with Sackville who are enjoying the extra training. Autumn Bowden is going into 3 primary schools and providing training, this is ahead of us sponsoring Mid Sussex Actives Annual Hockey tournament which will be held at the club in March.

We have 10 teams in U14s and up who have been enjoying the EH league structure. We have one team U16 boys remaining in the EH cup. Hoping to send them to the finals in Nottingham this year. U16 and U18 boys were also both in the finals of the Indoor competition.

Training going well, recruited and paid for more professional coaches this year than ever before and that is evolving all the time under the guidance of our Director of Coaching (Wes Jackson).

As previously mentioned, new talent programme from EH, which we are at a very early stage and have been short-listed by EH as one of the first of 39 potential Talent Centres and then moving to hopefully 1 of 12-15 Talent Academy's across the Country. Thank you for your vote on the constitution today as that helps us with our accreditation and to be able to move forward with this process.

## **5. AOB**

*No further points were raised.*

## **Summary**

Nicole and Phillip both thanked the attendees for their participation and voting this evening. The Committee will return and confirm a date for the AGM for April/May 2022.