



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY 21st JUNE 2008

Ross Piers Sports Centre, Soham.

PRESENT

EC Executives

Keith Allen (KA), Val Conroy (VC), Julie Norris(JN), Joanna Bayes(JB), Andrew (Smokey) Robinson(SR), Michaela Parfitt(MP), Lucille Rawlinson(LR)

Clubs Represented:

Colchester – Gary Allard (GA)

Houghton Regis - Jason Wakenshaw (JW)

Bury - Val Conroy/ Julie Norris

Letchworth - Keith Allen

Ely - Karen Gillett (KG) / Debbie Salisbury (DS)/ Linda Hart (LH)

Cambridge - Ivan Cook (IC) / John Milne (JM)

Kings Lynn - Andrew (Smokey) Robinson (SR)

Cottenham - Mike Neville (MN), Dave Stearn (DS), Paula Johnson (PJ)

Peterborough – Jane Carter (JC)/ Arthur Corr (AC)

Norwich - Derick Stevens (DS)

Late Arrivals/Fixtures Meeting, Paula Johnson, Arthur Corr, Derick Stevens.

Apologies: No Apologies

Clubs Not Represented: All Clubs represented at the Fixtures meeting.

Welcome

Keith Allen opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Minutes of the last AGM meeting were read and accepted by everyone.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising with the exception of a general report on EC Team Kits that have now been purchased for the region: Under 11's, Minors and now Intermediates. It is hoped funds will be available for Schoolboys and Juniors next season.

President's Report

A verbal presentation was given with KA reporting that, as previous years EC were still the strongest region in the country. KA paid tribute to Cottenham for the tremendous effort parents and players alike had contributed to the clubs success, and how much the club had grown in just two years. (A full double page spread was shown by VC of Cottenham RHC in the local paper). Most EC Clubs seem to be making good progress with new younger members joining. It was mentioned that senior clubs in the region may be beginning to diminish, but it is hoped that the 'next generation' may encourage players to continue or start up again in a few years. KA mentioned that the role of a full time hockey person is working well and both regionally and nationally is raising the standard of hockey throughout. KA also touched on the subject of other regions not doing so well as EC and needing assistance from the NRHA. Details of which will be covered later in AOB.

Competitions Report

VC presented her report and began by explaining that many tournaments were re-scheduled this season, which caused major problems particularly the congestion towards the end of the season. Tougher management will be implemented next season whereby tournaments will only be allowed to change if home team venues are not available for the day.

VC went on to report on the number of EC teams entering leagues from Senior 1 to Under 11's, which is very pleasing to know that Eastern Counties can still keep their membership strong for the future.

This season there were 4 out of region clubs entered into EC leagues, it was disappointing that HBU did fail to attend some tournaments for which heavy fines were issued. Thanks were received from both Grimsby and Farnham to EC for allowing them to take part in our leagues.

Another successful Jubilee Cup was held, with 12 teams entering, again the team from Vilassar de Mar entered. After a nail biting final against Kings Lynn, going to extra time and penalties, Vilassar were announced Winners of the tournament.

Inter-Regional – EC were again triumphant in the Inter-Regionals, winning Minors, Intermediates, Schoolboy and Juniors.

VC announced that letters had gone out to all Club Secretaries regarding entries for next season and stressed the importance of receiving entries as soon as possible.

VC would like to start looking for coaches and managers for the Inter-Regional teams in early September, and it would be very much appreciated if volunteers could come forward for these positions. Please contact VC on val.conroy@virgin.net.

Congratulations and best wishes were given to all EC players that have been selected to represent England from Senior's to Minors to Ladies.

Issues of red cards were mentioned, including the last Intermediate Division 2 match. This was the first VC had heard of this. **VC to check reports and ensure players bans are carried forward to next season's first games.**

VC ended her report by summing up the events planned for Cup Finals day tomorrow and handing out copies of the finalised National Calendar.

KA thanked VC for all her hard work as both EC and National Competitions Secretary, which is proving advantageous to the EC region.

General Secretary's Report

JN gave a general report of the region, its successes and Executive difficulties throughout the year, reminding everyone about the importance of CRB Checks (contact Michaela Parfitt), the EC policy of photographs and the successes within the region of the 600 club. A report of the regions registered players was also given:

Total number of EC Registered players - 310. (Nationally 674) broken down as follows:

Club	Regs	Ins Only	NCP
Kings Lynn	48	11	2
Bury	45	18	1
Norwich	40	4	0
Ely	38	5	0
Cambridge	30	5	1
Colchester	30	4	0
Cottenham	28	5	0

Peterborough	25	5	1
Letchworth	16	11	5

Treasurers Report

JB presented the treasurers report, which showed an overall loss this year, although 2 new Inter-Regional kits were purchased. Money was still to come in from EC teams, and a couple of Invoices were yet to be settled. Overall balance, approximately £2000.

In addition, due to difficulties that have arose over the year with regard to home clubs collecting club match fees JB suggested that the AGM should consider abolishing 'Match Fees' of £25 per team and instead Home Clubs be responsible for the total cost of their own tournament. This would then alleviate Home Teams / Timekeepers chasing £25 from each attending club.

The Fors and Againsts of this suggestion were discussed and it was agreed that from next season this would be implemented. Each club would be responsible solely for their home match costs and it would not be necessary for attending clubs to contribute £25 on the day.

Sadly, after serving a term of 4 years JB announced that she would be standing down as EC treasurer as she felt she now needed to concentrate her time more on club duties. On behalf of all the executives KA thanked Jo for all her hard work and commitment during her time on the Committee.

PROPOSALS

EC Referees

Due to the ongoing problems of referees in the region it was proposed that a structure be implemented that could provide and maintain the correct level of referees refereeing at EC league tournaments. This was proposed in the form of starting this season with a ruling in the Under 11's / Minors categories and then if all goes well, next season introducing this to Intermediates/ Schoolboys and then in 2011/2012 season in all Divisions. This structure would then give time for clubs to train referees to the necessary grade. The main points of the proposal was:

- Every game to have two Referees
- If team does not bring a Ref they pay a fine
- And then in the 2011/2012 season, in all Divisions. This will give time for clubs to train Referees to the necessary grade.
- Referees have to be of a certain grade to ref
- Grade to be set
- The Referees should all have a registration card, which should be given in at the Timekeepers desk with player's cards.
- If clubs cannot provide a ref they must notify the home club and find a replacement to avoid the fine.

This proposal was discussed at considerable length, including placement of 'fines' if Referees were not provided. It was eventually decided that this proposal be accepted and implemented (with fines attached) for the next season. All Clubs will be notified by the Referees & Disputes Executive officer. Any fines would be paid to ECRHA and monies put towards funding the correct attire for EC referees to adhere to. This being decided as Black Trousers with Black/White EC Referee Shirts at all matches. **JN to make amendment on EC Constitution and AR to ensure notification of the new ruling is sent to all clubs.**

Girls Age Categories Playing Up

Following confusion during the year, it was proposed at an EC Executive meeting that EC Girl Age Categories be added to the EC Constitution and Rulings for all to see. This was agreed and the girls age categories into EC leagues will be displayed as follows:

Under 11's	-	1 year older permitted	12yrs
Minors	-	1 year older permitted	14yrs
Intermediates	-	2 years older permitted	17 yrs
Schoolboys + Above	-	Any Age	18 yrs +

This applies to all girls playing on pitch or goal.

JN to make addition to EC Constitution/EC Rulings.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following posts, some of which had now become vacant were voted in for the 2008/2009 season, either through nomination/election, or previously elected members agreeing to continue their post. Although she will now be standing down as Webstie Co-ordinator, thanks was mentioned to Marion Rose for her ongoing support and tremendous efforts through personal difficult times this season.

President:	Keith Allen
Competitions Secretary:	Val Conroy
General Secretary:	Julie Norris
Treasurer:	David Stearn
Website Coordinator:	Dave Wilson / Ric Parfitt - proposed
Development:	Michaela Parfitt
Child Protection:	Lucy Rawlinson
Referees & Disputes	Andrew (Smokey) Robinson
Funding:	Karen Gillett
Vice President:	Ivan Cook
Vice President	Jane Carter

It is now very pleasing to see almost all EC clubs represented on the committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tournament Dates

Following on from the Competitions Report JM raised the point of Schoolboy tournaments being held on Saturdays and the problems of club teams with players being at work. VC and KA explained the difficulties working dates/tournaments into the National Calendar when several Intermediate players also played for Schoolboys. It was mentioned that some Sundays have been included in the calendar where possible for Schoolboys.

KA gave an explanation of set dates that also have to be considered when preparing the National Calendar which include all National, Cerhs and Champions League dates.

Following on from this discussion KA also explained the inclusion of the new proposed NRHA conference system.

Out of Region Teams Entering EC Leagues

It has been mentioned that some EC clubs are not happy with out of region clubs entering EC leagues. KA explained the difficulties other regions were having and that last season we had agreed to only allow outside of region entries into our league when these teams were playing in a comparable league in their own region, which had proved difficult. He went on to say that in some cases out of region teams did in fact help our own league formats.

JW explained that from a Senior Leagues point of view, out of region teams had helped to raise the standard of hockey throughout the season, which in turn is beneficial to all.

Congratulations were given, at this point, to Houghton Regis as Winners of ND1.

SR also added that Kings Lynn were happy to have outside clubs but, following an incident of damage to an EC venue by an out of region player, thought EC should apply a clause to their invitations stating that unacceptable behaviour would not be tolerated.

Big & Small Debate

KA explained to those attending the AGM of an issue that had been raised earlier in the season following a debate that arose at an Executive meeting earlier in the year, whereby a complaint/concern was brought to the meeting regarding 'under 15's' not being permitted to play in adult leagues (namely Division 3,) and in particular the safety of 'smaller' players playing against adults.

It was explained that permits for under 15's were needed to play in these leagues. Clubs requesting permits for these players are presented and considered by the executive, (to the minimum age of 13), by their ability and capabilities and only following parental consent, by way of signing their agreement are they permitted. After checks with our insurance company proving ok, it was decided this issue would be discussed at this AGM.

Those that had raised the concern did not attend the AGM, but after opening the discussion to the floor it was decided that as EC adopt International Rules of 14 years with parental/coach/club permission for 13 year olds.

NRHA Assistance to Regions

Although primarily this is a National issue, KA wanted to explain an idea he intends taking to the NRHA AGM with regard to the NRHAs' responsibility towards helping struggling regions to develop. The idea is, that a portion of NRHA funds be invested into helping the development of regions, in the form of concentrated 'Come and Try' sessions in conjunction with local clubs, starting with 3 in the South, 3 in the North and 3 in the South West. The money would be needed to provide equipment, skates, sticks, knee-pads and gloves etc. As help is urgently needed in the above-mentioned regions, if piloted in these regions and proved successful it could also filter into the EC region.

Registration Fees

EC Entry Fees would remain as they are for the forth-coming season.

AND FINALLY – ATTENDANCE AT EC AGM's

Although a representative from all EC clubs was present this year, due to the importance of team entries at the Fixtures meeting, it was suggested that any club not attending the

Fixtures meeting with information of their entries, have a fine imposed if they want to submit entries into EC leagues at a later date.

There being no further business the AGM was closed at 2.00pm.

Fixtures Meeting

Following on from the AGM, proposals for EC fixtures were put forward and discussed. Although VC is awaiting final entries the following leagues were proposed for the 2008/2009 season:

Senior Division 1	-	9 Team format
Senior Division 2	-	7 Team format
Senior Division 3	-	5 Team format
School Boys	-	9 Team format
Intermediates - Div 1	-	5 Team format
Div 2	-	7 Team format
Minors - Div 1	-	5 Team format
Div 2	-	7 Team format
Under 11's	-	7 Team format

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.00pm.