

Secretary's report for the GHA AGM 2018 – 19 Season Wednesday 29th May 2019EH AGM

During the 2018 – 19 Season a total of 5 Committee meetings were held at which a range of topics were considered. As well as discussing the regular topics specific issues that were addressed were those of the website, incorporation of the GHA and of course the largest area of involvement the management of Junior hockey particularly the Player Pathway in the north of the County. There was also a Clubs Forum sponsored by GHA that covered Umpire Development, a second session on “What makes a great Club” was cancelled due to limited attendance.

During this season the GHA website was updated and generic email addresses provided for the key officers. In addition, an updated logo was developed and is now in use. The result is a modern looking site that is in keeping with the forward looking image which GHA is keen to develop. Thanks to Shaun Cullimore for all his hard work to bring this about, this in addition to his duties as Treasurer.

A sad and unexpected development this season was the illness of Angie Atherton, a long standing stalwart of the GHA. She was actually taken ill at a GHA Committee meeting to which she had come despite not feeling well. Subsequent to a long stay in Gloucester Royal Hospital her rehabilitation has been a slow process, but it is hoped she will be able to return in some capacity next season. She is standing down as a formal member of the GHA Committee, but we hope she will be able to continue to be involved with the Committee and provide advice and guidance.

As a result of this we have welcomed Lisa Lundie and James Doughty into the Junior set up to help run the various activities. Lisa in addition to her role as Welfare Officer took on the Boys Schools competitions this season and did an excellent job for which we thank her. She will be continuing with this next season albeit we will need volunteers on the day to run the sites. James Doughty (Lansdown) joined to lead the Player Pathway and due to his skills with IT this has seen the adoption of the EH on-line system which has eased the administrative burden to some degree although as ever with such a process there have been challenges. Thanks to James for stepping in to help and as you will see he is now a candidate to fill one of the two Junior positions on the Committee. I took on the U8 and U10 Festivals as well as the In2Hockey Clubs competition.

The EH AGM on 19th March was attended by myself and Mike Sheppard. The attendance at Bisham Abbey was surprisingly low, probably no more than 10 Clubs were represented with the majority of attendees being either the EH Board or EH staff! Sally Munday the Chairman spoke for most of the meeting although the Finance Director covered all the fiscal elements. Full details of the meeting are available on the EH website including what was the plan for the roll out of the outcome of the Governance Review. This though has been delayed and now there will be a series of roadshows over the summer starting at the end of June and running through until the end of September to cover the whole country. The West one will be on 1st July at Taunton and all Clubs and Associations are being encouraged to attend at least one event. It will be interesting to see to what is proposed and how far reaching it might be.

Lastly, the events of this year and the obvious increasing difficulty with filling positions means that the GHA Committee needs to look at the long term. Indeed, an example of this has been the reality that it has taken 3 people to fill the gap left by the absence of Angie Atherton. Organisation, succession planning and the various roles are all elements that need consideration, but until the direction of the Governance review is known there seems little value in doing anything in particular. Although Incorporation appears in Matters Arising on the Agenda, this discussion is only to get views from member Clubs. During next season the Committee will be considering the way forwards and any proposals for reform will be brought to the next AGM for ratification.

Ian Harvey
Acting Secretary