

AGM Wessex SuperVets Fixtures Alliance, Saturday 19 March 2016 @ The Cricketers, Bagshot; 1730 hrs

Members present:

Peter Colwill, (Chairman WSFA), James Lane (Amersham & Chalfont Vintage), Rob Kenwick (WSFA Organiser), Bob Middlemiss and Tim Tennent (Epsom Vagabonds), David Todd (Oxted Vintage Moonshiners), Joe Dunne (Woking Pitts Elders).

Visitors: Steve Edwards from the Thames Valley Conference. (Camberley Owls) and Dave Craig, Camberley Owls. Malcolm Green from the fledgling Severn SuperVets Friendly Alliance.

Apologies

Paul Bloomfield (Woking Pitts and Founder Member), Tom Carney, Andy Roberts, (Guildford Gondoliers), Graham Lee, (Wokingham Vets), Iain Lynch, (Haslemere Vets), Simon Everett, (Windsor Vets), James Larcombe, (Winchester Wanderers)

Minutes AGM of the Wessex SuperVets Fixtures Alliance, Saturday 18 April 2015 @ The Cricketers, Bagshot are on the website.

2015 / 2016 results

WSFA Team	Games Played	Points	Success Index	Position
Oxford Hawks Falcons	23	52	2.26	1
Southampton Cockburns	24	54	2.25	2
Guildford Gondoliers	25	55	2.20	3
Oxted Vintage Moonshiners	25	45	1.80	4
Haslemere Vets	25	38	1.52	5
Woking Pitts Elders	24	36	1.50	6
Epsom Vagabonds	26	35	1.35	7
Windsor Vets (Polytechnic)	21	26	1.24	8
Havant Cavaliers	23	26	1.13	9
Amersham & Chalfont Vintage	26	29	1.12	10
Horsham Hobblers	24	24	1.00	11
Winchester Wanderers	25	23	0.92	12
Wokingham Vets	23	20	0.87	13
Total Games Played	314	86%		
Games postponed	12			

These results differ from those on the website as they include the games played with Thames Valley Conference (TVC).

The Organiser shared a table covering the results from the last 14 years ordered by the averages. It showed Oxford Hawks Falcons topping the table every year.

During the year we had experimented with the TVC filling – in with the spare fixture. Their results are shown below:

Thames Valley Conference	Games Played	Points	Success Index	Position
Teddington Tigers	0	0	#DIV/0!	
Wimbledonians	2	6	3.00	1
Marlow Strollers	2	3	1.50	2
Ashford 4	4	4	1.00	3
Sunbury Red Lions	2	1	0.50	4
Maidenhead Merlins	2	1	0.50	5
Camberley Owls	6	2	0.33	6
Purley	1	0	0.00	7=
Slough Ramgahria	1	0	0.00	7=
Wrinklies (South Bucks)	2	0	0.00	7=

TVC and the WSFA going forwards

During the year the 9 teams listed (except Purley) had applied to join the WSFA. Steve Edwards was invited to say a few words. The TVC teams are generally similar in age and approach except that some play colts. The Chairman stressed the ethos of the WSFA – to play teams comprising players over 50 years of age and with similar abilities and approach. Teams that are short of players may look to the opposition to provide spares. Our current rules are to be maintained. This includes the rule that ALL games are to be played on ASTRO; the only team allowed to play on Grass is founder member Epsom Vagabonds. As for under-age players it was pointed out by Epsom that TVC team Wimbledon included a 35-year old and 3 x 40s. This was not acceptable.

SE expressed some concerns about the travel distances between clubs. The Organiser has calculated the mileage between the various clubs and this table is attached. However the geography is unlikely to change and the intent is to play regular friendly hockey whenever and wherever the games are scheduled. It was pointed out that there are insufficient weeks in the season to play everyone home and away and therefore if it goes ahead it might be on the basis of playing at least every other team once only and filling the other few weeks with local matches, with the fixtures reversed in the following season.

SE had drawn up a plan (circulated) for playing three regional groups for half the season and the more distant games in the other half of the season. This wasn't particularly well received as the existing members enjoy meeting all the existing teams home and away in a season.

Joe Dunne asked if the TVC really did have sufficient players over 50 years of age to field equivalent sides. The Organiser said that we had surveyed our own squads two years previously to establish an average age and this could be applied to the TVC clubs too.

Soon after this SE and DC left the meeting to its deliberations.

WSFA Vote

The result of a vote amongst the existing members of the WSFA was announced: 8 votes for to 5 against. (roughly 60 / 40 percent).

Team	YES	NO
Amersham & Chalfont Vintage	✓	
Epsom Vagabonds	✓	
Guildford Gondoliers		X
Haslemere Vets	✓	
Havant Cavaliers	✓	
Horsham Hobblers	✓	
Oxford Hawks Falcons		X
Oxted Vintage Moonshiners		X
Southampton Cockburns	■	X
Winchester Wanderers	✓	
Windsor Vets (Polytechnic)	✓	
Woking Pitts Elders		X
Wokingham Vets	✓	
totals	8	5

This large-ish minority vote is of concern.

The Organiser said that a number of the responses had been 'qualified' often in terms like 'we don't want to play against colts'. Oxford's captain who was against the merger had telephoned that morning and without offering a 'threat or promise' had told him that the team had been invited to join the London League. No decision had been made.

The possibility remained that whilst we might accept 9 new teams into the WSFA, some of the existing ones might vote with their feet and leave.

The Organiser also pointed out that a fall-back position could be the same as this season with TVC teams filling the gaps, or every team playing every other team just once, with the spare weeks being filled by clubs playing their favourites. In both cases it could be an *experimental* season again – with the decision regarding integration deferred to next season. It also gave the TVC an opportunity of testing the strength of the WSFA teams and vice versa.

The decision was that going forward the season should be very much the same as last season with all existing WSFA teams playing the others at least once. TVC would be
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invited to fill the gaps but unlike the 2015 / 2016 season, the TVC teams should be different teams.

The calendar below allows for 26 games home and away with a different TVC team making up the numbers to 14. The other TVC teams can play each other and still have their results recorded if they so wish. The Organiser suggested that the September dates be included in the calendar and clubs can choose who they would like to play (or if they would like to play on these dates). It makes no difference to the calculation of the success index. This caters for those clubs who want to play the maximum number of games possible.

The dates at the end of the season may cause problems if teams go to South Africa for the Golden Oldies (2 – 7 April 2017) but we cross that bridge when we reach it. There is no scope for playing postponed games unless they are played after Easter 2017 (or on Christmas Eve / New Year's Eve).

The calendar for 2016 / 2017 is below:

week	date	
	17-Sep-16	Play your favourites
	24-Sep-16	Play your favourites
1	01-Oct-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
2	08-Oct-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
3	15-Oct-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
4	22-Oct-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
5	29-Oct-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
6	05-Nov-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
7	12-Nov-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
8	19-Nov-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
9	26-Nov-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
10	03-Dec-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
11	10-Dec-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
12	17-Dec-16	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
	24-Dec-16	Christmas
	31-Dec-16	New Year's Eve
13	07-Jan-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
14	14-Jan-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
15	21-Jan-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
16	28-Jan-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in

17	04-Feb-17	different TVC teams filling in WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
18	11-Feb-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
19	18-Feb-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
20	25-Feb-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
21	04-Mar-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
22	11-Mar-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
23	18-Mar-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
24	25-Mar-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
25	01-Apr-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
26	08-Apr-17	WSFA play home and away with different TVC teams filling in
	15-Apr-17	Easter
	22-Apr-17	Tournament (date to be confirmed)

The organiser was asked to acquaint TVC with the decision and invite them to confirm acceptance of the conditions. Organising the fixtures is to be completed by end May / early June with TVC cooperation.

18th Golden Oldies World Hockey Festival in Cape Town, 2nd – 9th April, 2017

A number of clubs have expressed interest in this event. It's proposed to put it on the website and since writing these notes it occurs to the author that *it probably needs someone to volunteer to coordinate interest.*

Election of Officers for 2016 – 2017 and Nominated Members from each Club

Chairman – Peter Colwill (prepared to continue for one more year)

Organiser – Rob Kenwick

Assistant Organiser - vacant

Webmaster – George Oliver

Assistant Webmaster - Vacant

Nominated Member for each team

Winchester Wanderers – James Larcombe

Oxted Vintage Moonshiners – David Todd

Epsom Vagabonds – Bob Middlemiss

More nominations / volunteers required. Those present are asked to try and recruit people to fill the vacancies.

Subscriptions

The Organiser reported that he had £130 sitting in the bank account. Some of that was due to George Oliver for the website. It was proposed that the existing £10 subscription be maintained at the same level going forwards.

The Chairman proposed that the excess might be used to invest in a trophy.

AOB

New teams – The Organiser is waiting to hear from the Dark Horses (Basingstoke) and Chichester Deacons.

The Organiser proposed to amend the results reporting rule – to bring it forward to 1800 hrs on Saturday evening.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 2046 hrs.