

## **Wessex SuperVets Fixtures Alliance (WSFA) – President Paul Bloomfield**



**Annual General Meeting Minutes - Saturday 23 April 2022 – 1610 – 1650 hrs following the presentation of the Gerald Eve Cup to Fleet and Ewshot by Mrs Frances Smith.**

**Attendees** were asked to sign the attendance list (appended).

**Chairman Peter Colwill** welcomed everyone and asked the Hon President, Paul Bloomfield to say a few words. Paul introduced himself as the instigator of the WSFA some 20 years ago and then asked the Organiser, Rob Kenwrick to join him. Paul thanked Rob for his help and support in running the WSFA for many years and presented him with a token of appreciation for his services. Rob thanked him and said that he had enjoyed the role immensely.

### **Apologies for absence**

Southampton Cockburns, Graham Lee SBHC, Havant Cavaliers.

**Adoption of the Minutes** of the previous AGM (the last one was held on 27 April 2019). The Minutes are on the website, but a paper copy was available at the meeting for anyone to review.

**Proposed for accepting the Minutes: Peter Colwill**

**Seconded: Iain Lynch**

### **Organiser's Report for the 20<sup>th</sup> Season of the WSFA**

Rob began with two sad facts.

Peter Smith, a stalwart of Haslemere HC and their vets' team passed away on Monday 7th March at the Royal Surrey Hospital. A celebration in his memory is being planned to take place this Summer. Peter was also Fixture Secretary at Haslemere for many years. Rob explained that over a number of years after our fixture card was issued Peter would email him or call and ask him to extract Haslemere's fixtures from the remainder, a task Rob was always pleased to undertake for Peter.

102 games (27%) were either postponed or cancelled. This flies in the face of our ethos – of playing regular friendly hockey amongst evenly matched teams by way of age, ability and attitude.

Oxford Hawks Falcons (OHF) have commented, ‘we have seen a significant number of home fixtures cancelled, for us it is hugely frustrating and costly to our kitchen team’.

Rob hoped that this wouldn’t become an issue and that it may be resolved with opposition clubs either committing to playing **all** their away games next season or declaring early that they can’t, allowing the opposition to search for friendly games to replace them.

On a more positive note – he reported that OHF have topped the Alliance Success Index - the **ninth** time in **20** years and as founder members they have played in every one of the last **20** seasons so well done to them.

There are other winners too.

Epsom Vagabonds for amassing more points than anyone else (**50**).

Woking Pitts Elders for playing more games than any other team (**24**).

Three teams, Epsom Vagabonds, Haslemere Vets and Havant Cavaliers, each managing to play **23** games.

All **270** of the players for taking part and playing in **280** games and collectively amassing **402** points.

And whilst we don’t record the goals, many of you have reported these and the total for the whole season is at least **560** goals. So whatever your role, whether it be large or small – he hoped everyone had enjoyed it!

Rob also thanked the umpires for their services as without them we couldn’t play.

Individual team positions as shown in the Success Index as at 9 April was displayed at the meeting and could also be viewed on the website. Particular thanks are due to George Oliver, our webmaster, who has done a stalwart job in maintaining this.

Rob reported that he had been thinking of standing aside for some time to allow fresh blood with fresh ideas to take over the role of Organiser. Ian Nurcombe brought Camberley Owls into the Alliance at the beginning of the

year and volunteered to take over as Organiser. At his behest a short survey was devised to help us plan the way ahead. Again, the results could be viewed at the AGM. They are also shown here:

Questions - Please circle one number for each category	Overall response	Interpretation
1 Distance to Travel to Away Matches?	3	Neither VI or NI
2 Start Time Of Matches?	3	Neither VI or NI
3 Stronger Teams in one League Weaker in another?	3	Neither VI or NI
4 65+ league?	4	Not that important
5 Over 50 with 2 players between 45 & 50 ?	2	Quite important
6 Communication from Opposition prior to Matches?	2	Quite important
7 Sharing Players with Opposition to ensure still have a match?	2	Quite important
8 Reporting of Result and League Tables?	2	Quite important
9 Home Teams to provide 2 Umpires?	3	Neither VI or NI
10 Teas after The Matches?	2	Quite important

Four Clubs added some comments:

Oxford Hawks Falcons 'We have seen a significant # of home fixtures cancelled, for us it is hugely frustrating and our kitchen team costly'.

Trojans Vets 2 'Don't want to play any under 50s'.

South Berkshire 'Didn't understand Q3'.

Southampton Cockburns' 'An over-50s league, and an over-60s league is extremely important'.

Another survey set out to establish the age ranges of players in the teams and that too was available for members to see. It is shown below:

	Totals	Weighted Average Ages
<b>Squad numbers as at 1 March 2022</b>		
Windsor Vets (Polytechnic)	17	54.4
Haslemere Masters'	17	56.7
Oxford Hawks Falcons	23	57.7
Epsom Vagabonds	21	58.9
Oxted Vintage Moonshiners	15	59.7
Camberley Owls	16	60.1
Winchester Wanderers	13	60.8
South Berkshire Hornets	14	61.3
Haslemere Vets	19	61.7
Guildford Gondoliers	18	64.2
Southampton Cockburns	19	64.9
Havant Cavaliers	19	65.7
Woking Pitts Elders	20	66.3

Trojans Vets 2	21	69.9
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>61.6</b>

Finally, Rob wished the WSFA many more competitive and enjoyable games of hockey in the years that lie ahead and wished Ian every success as he takes over the role of Organiser.

### **Election of Officers / re-election of Executive Committee**

Currently:

- Peter Colwill (Chairman) (standing down)
- Rob Kenwick (Organiser) (standing down)
- Vacant (Assistant Organiser)
- George Oliver (Webmaster)
- Phil Bell (Assistant Webmaster)
- James Larcombe (Nominated Member) (standing down)
- Bob Middlemiss (Nominated Member) (standing down)
- Tim Tennent (Nominated Member) (standing down)
- David Todd (Nominated Member) (standing down)

Most members were standing down, and over the last two months very few volunteers had emerged to take over. In particular we need independent representatives from at least 4 clubs in case there is a disciplinary matter that has to be investigated.

With this in mind the Chairman and Organiser developed a solution. A few months ago the Chairman drew two numbers between 1 and 14 and sent them to the Organiser. The Organiser matched them to two teams participating in the WSFA. They were placed in a sealed envelope. Chairman, Peter was invited to open the envelope and name the two teams that are being asked to take responsibility for filling these vacant positions. He did so and named the two teams as **Havant Cavaliers and Windsor Vets (Polytechnic)**.

As they weren't represented at the AGM the new Organiser will need to advise them of their selection.

No other nominations for the post of Organiser were received, meaning that Ian Nurcombe from Camberley Owls replaced Rob immediately following the AGM.

Rob said that If no-one took up the position of Assistant Organiser, he was willing to occupy the position for the time being, so as to offer any support the new Organiser needs.

## **Finances**

Rob is holding WSFA subscriptions of £420 in his personal bank account. This will be transferred to the incoming Organiser. It is expected that there will be a sum to pay out for the website this coming Summer.

**Subscriptions** are currently set at £15 per team per season. There seems no good reason other than to maintain these at the same level for 2022 / 2023.

**Proposer: Rob Kenwick**

**Seconded: Iain Lynch**

Confirming the figure as £15 per team for the 2022 – 2023 season.

## **OPTIONS FOR NEXT SEASON**

Rob received the following suggestions:

### **Southampton Cockburns (John Spencer) 21 April 2022**

'Our preference is that we play in an over-60s league. We appreciate that this will require EH to very quickly get their act in gear.

If this doesn't happen, then we are happy to continue in the WSFA. However, we are concerned that some of our fixtures do not conform to the WSFA ethos of "playing regular friendly hockey against teams of equal ability and age". Perhaps it is a good time to consider splitting the league into two divisions based on this season's finishing positions. Each team could play others in their division 3 times to give a full season of fixtures.

If necessary, please give me a call on 07847-713631 to discuss'.

Rob told John that he would put this to the meeting and it's called **OPTION 1**

The Age Survey completed recently would allow us to split the 14 teams into 2 Divisions which have been named Division 1 and Division 2.

Assuming we have the same 14 teams participating next season as this one, each Division would have 7 teams.

Southampton's suggestion would mean each Division would play the other teams in its Division THREE times offering a shorter season of 18 games.

Some season's dates would be lost when hockey could otherwise be played.

This would mean that one team is potentially without a game each week.

This could be rectified if the two teams without a game (one from Division 1 and one from Division 2) agreed to play each other.

Some of the camaraderie that exists between the teams that each division don't play would potentially be lost.

### **OPTION 2 Average Age**

As previously all teams play home and away but taking into account the average age of each team in ascending order and the difference between them. These are identified as A (Division 1) B (Division 2) or C (Division 1 playing Division 2),

There **may** be a way of handicapping the younger team but it isn't being suggested that we do anything that complicates our simple results recording system that has worked so well.

### **OPTION 3 Top v Bottom**

As previously all teams play home and away but taking into account the order in which the teams finished this season and the age difference between them. The average ages and A B and C categories are identified as A (Division 1) B (Division 2) or C (Division 1 playing Division 2),

Our existing rules would still apply except for the average age of the team that is playing would be able to complement its team with players from the 5 years below the minimum age, e.g. A Division 2 team could draw up to 2 additional players from the 55 - 60 age group. The goalie can be of any age.

### **OPTION 4 from Mike Fitter 22 April 2022**

'For your information - I have been kicking around a few ideas - essentially as GHC is considering following Woking & Haslemere in creating another younger 50s team , so existing WSFA team is likely to become older & more like 60's.

I cannot attend the WSFA AGM - family duties - but have floated concept to John H , Ian Lynch of Haslemere & GHC guys - that IF there is still general concern that a move towards 60s / weaker 50's would be beneficial then, one option would be :-

***1. First half of season (Sept - Dec 22) - continue as is, all play all one game, either home or away.***

***2. Second half split into pool A / pool B based on results to mid November AND flexibility over "middle league teams " , and play everybody in your pool twice in Jan – April.***

This would keep social contacts going with at least one "traditional" fixture against existing teams, but also provide more appropriate hockey for second half.

It also moves clubs along the path towards creating a 60s league'.

**Option 5 – voiced at the AGM by Ian Nurcombe, Camberley Owls.**

Ian suggested that the 4 teams that are over 65 together with the 3 with the worst results this year could form one of two divisions with each division playing twice and playing the opposing division once only. His proposed divisions would look like this:

<b>Division 1</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Division 2</b>	<b>Position</b>
Epsom Vagabonds	3	Camberley Owls	12
Guildford Gondoliers	6	Haslemere SuperVets	11
Haslemere Masters'	2	Havant Cavaliers	14
Oxford Hawks Falcons	1	Southampton Cockburns	8
Oxted Vintage Moonshiners	5	Trojans Vets 2	7
South Berkshire Hornets	9	Winchester Wanderers	13
Windsor Vets (Polytechnic)	4	Woking Pitts Elders	10

In writing up the notes Rob has looked at the average ages of the teams as well and it suggests a slightly different mix to that proposed at the meeting. And it moves us closer to England Hockey's aspirations of leagues based on 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s over the coming years.

<b>Division 1</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>Division 2</b>	<b>AA</b>
Epsom Vagabonds	58.9	Camberley Owls	60.1
Guildford Gondoliers	64.2	Haslemere SuperVets	61.7
Haslemere Masters'	56.7	Havant Cavaliers	65.7
Oxford Hawks Falcons	57.7	<b>South Berkshire Hornets</b>	61.3
Oxted Vintage Moonshiners	59.7	Southampton Cockburns	64.9
<b>Winchester Wanderers</b>	60.8	Trojans Vets 2	69.9
Windsor Vets (Polytechnic)	54.4	Woking Pitts Elders	66.3

It is interesting to note that despite Ian's reference to +/- 65, all the teams in the proposed Division 2 are in their 60s and two teams from Division 1 are also in their 60s. A further two, Epsom and Oxted could well become of age (60) during next season. Would an imbalanced number of participants between the two divisions be feasible? (5 + a Spare in Division 1 and 9 + a Spare in Division 2). The overall average age for Division 1 as proposed is 58.9; the overall average age for Division 2 is 64.3.

At present, the plan is for those 7 'younger' teams generally finishing in the top half of the Alliance to form Division 1 and play each other twice (12 games).

Those 7 'older' teams generally finishing in the bottom half of the Alliance' to form Division 2 and also play each other twice (12 games).

The teams from Division 1 play the teams from Division 2 once only (7 games). **19 games in total.**

NB Both South Berkshire Hornets and Winchester Wanderers finished in the bottom half of the Alliance but to even things up between the two Divisions it is proposed to put the younger team, Winchester Wanderers (average age 60.8), in Division 1 and South Berkshire Hornets (average age 61.3), in Division 2.

Trojans finished up in the top half of the Alliance but as they are the oldest squad in the Alliance it is proposed to put them in Division 2.

An eighth (spare) team has been included for each Division to ensure that a pairing of teams due to play once only during the season is not duplicated. This means that in the Divisional weeks' games one team from each Division will be without a game. Provided both teams agree, they may of course play the game and decide to include or exclude the game from their season's results.

<b>Division 1</b>	<b>Division 2</b>
Epsom Vagabonds	Camberley Owls
Guildford Gondoliers	Haslemere SuperVets
Haslemere Masters'	Havant Cavaliers
Oxford Hawks Falcons	South Berkshire Hornets
Oxted Vintage Moonshiners	Southampton Cockburns
Winchester Wanderers	Trojans Vets 2
Windsor Vets (Polytechnic)	Woking Pitts Elders
SPARE	SPARE



## VOTING

**EIGHT** WSFA Member teams (100%) of those present at the AGM on 23 April voted overwhelmingly in favour of Option 5 (57% of the 14 teams eligible to vote).

Ref	Team	Option 5
1	<b>Camberley Owls</b>	✓
2	<b>Epsom Vagabonds</b>	
3	<b>Guildford Gondoliers</b>	✓
4	<b>Haslemere Masters'</b>	✓
5	<b>Haslemere SuperVets</b>	✓
6	Havant Cavaliers	
7	<b>Oxted Vintage Moonshiners</b>	✓
8	<b>Woking Pitts Elders</b>	✓
9	Oxford Hawks Falcons	
10	<b>South Berkshire Hornets</b>	✓
11	Southampton Cockburns	
12	Trojans Vets 2	
13	<b>Winchester Wanderers</b>	✓
14	Windsor Vets (Polytechnic)	

Those teams present have effectively confirmed that they wish to take part next season. Havant Cavaliers have indicated the same to Rob via email. The remainder have been asked to confirm no later than 30 April 2022.

Steps will now be taken to create the fixture card for next season and issue it – probably early in June 2022. This will allow teams to give the details to their Pitch Booking Secretary for him / her to assign pitch times in good time for the start of the 2022/2023 season. These should be sent to the opposition teams with Post codes of their respective locations with copies to the Organiser and Webmaster. (NB The times are not put on the website in case there are last minute changes to these). The times and venues of games should be confirmed at least two weeks before the published date, time and venue of the games.

### **Any other Business**

**Camberley Owls (Ian Nurcombe)** suggested that we have an annual vote for *the most sociable team* on and off the field of play.

**Proposer: Ian Nurcombe**  
unanimously.

**Seconder: Approved**

Finally, **Oxford Hawks Falcons (Richard Wilsdon)** had a proposition to put to the meeting, but as he wasn't present, Iain Lynch put it forward on behalf of OHF.

Iain said that we didn't currently have a Vice-President and it was proposed to ask Rob Kenwick to accept this position in recognition of his commitment to the WSFA over many years.

**Proposer: Iain Lynch (for OHF)** **Seconder: Approved unanimously.**

**The meeting closed at 1650 hrs.**

Almost immediately afterwards John Ingram-Marriott came forward and spoke to the outgoing Chairman, Peter Colwill, the new Organiser, Ian Nurcombe and the new Vice President and volunteered to take on the role of Chairman. This was unanimously accepted by the three of them.

The Vice President has since said that he is flattered to be recognized in this way and thanked everyone for their support. He hopes that the WSFA would last at least another 20 years in its present form.

### **Attending the AGM**

Name	Team
Paul Bloomfield	Hon President
Peter Colwill	Chairman
Rob Kenwick	Organiser & South Berkshire Hornets
Ian Nurcombe	Camberley Owls
Jacqui Dibley	Camberley Owls
John Holmes	Oxted Vintage Moonshiners
Rupert Forden	Woking Pitts
David Todd	Oxted Vintage Moonshiners
Rik Farrer	Woking Pitts
James Lane	Amersham & Chalfont Vintage
John Hughes	Woking Pitts
Joe Dunne	Woking Pitts
Chris Gould	Guildford Gondoliers
Mukesh Phakey	Woking Pitts
Peter Durley	Camberley Owls
Johnny Roberts	Haslemere Masters'
Adrian Potter	Haslemere
Richard Meakin	Fleet & Ewshot
Clive Harder	Fleet & Ewshot
John Ingram-Marriott	Guildford Gondoliers
Peter Lawrence	Haslemere
Peter Lingard	Haslemere

Peter Ruben  
David Haydon

Haslemere  
Winchester Wanderers

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**Success Indices 2021 - 2022**

Team (Founder Teams in Bold)	Success Index 2021 - 2022	Games Played	Total Points	Position 2021 - 2022	Position compared with a year ago Higher (positive) Lower (Negative)
<b>Oxford Hawks</b> <b>Falcons</b>	<b>2.41</b>	17	41	<b>1</b>	<b>Same</b>
Haslemere Masters'	<b>2.32</b>	19	44	<b>2</b>	<b>+1</b>
<b>Epsom Vagabonds</b>	<b>2.17</b>	23	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>+2</b>
Windsor Vets (Polytechnic)	<b>2.00</b>	21	42	<b>4</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Oxted Vintage</b> <b>Moonshiners</b>	<b>1.88</b>	16	30	<b>5</b>	<b>+1</b>
<b>Guildford</b> <b>Gondoliers</b>	<b>1.65</b>	20	33	<b>6</b>	<b>+2</b>
Trojans Vets 2	<b>1.38</b>	21	29	<b>7</b>	<b>-3</b>
Southampton Cockburns	<b>1.30</b>	20	26	<b>8</b>	<b>+2</b>
<b>South Berkshire</b> <b>Hornets</b>	<b>1.16</b>	19	22	<b>9</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Woking Pitts</b> <b>Elders</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>24</b>	26	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Haslemere Vets</b>	<b>0.91</b>	23	21	<b>11</b>	<b>-1</b>
Camberley Owls	<b>0.79</b>	14	11	<b>12</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Winchester</b> <b>Wanderers</b>	<b>0.67</b>	18	12	<b>13</b>	<b>-4</b>
<b>Havant Cavaliers</b>	<b>0.65</b>	23	15	<b>14</b>	<b>-1</b>
Astolat	<b>0.0</b>	2	0	<b>15</b>	<b>na</b>