



## Merton Hockey Club

Annual General Meeting  
Monday 11 May 2026  
8pm via Teams



### *Draft Minutes*

#### **In attendance:**

Chris Walker, Sarah Pope, Sarah Young, Will Murray-Jones, Steve Chambers, Eddison Alexander, Josh Hunt, Christian Elson, Gene Samuels, Yee-Ean Ong, Phil Newton. Virginia Van West, John Wrigglesworth, Julian Brown, Adie Shepherd.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Tom Proctor, Mariaan Venter, Emma Young.

#### **2. Minutes of 12 May 2025**

Agreed. CW noted that the last AGM had focused on when/if the floodlights at Harris Academy Morden would be installed and also increasing that pool of qualified umpires. The floodlights were finally in use from 5 November 2025 and the umpiring issue had been taken over by a relaxation of league requirements, but still remained an issue for the club to get more people qualified.

#### **3. Overview of 25/26 Season and Plans for 2026/27**

Overall, CW felt it had been another good season and highlighted the successful establishment of the W2s team and a 10% growth in numbers across adult and junior sections. The M2s had won their league and been promoted and the W1s had come close. The M1s had struggled in their new league and were relegated and the W2s and Boars had held their own and finished mid-table. New BU18s and GU16 teams had done well in Tier 2 competitions and a number of new junior coaches had stepped up to help with training.

Other highlights included the new floodlights which had meant two evening sessions a week being offered, registration of the club as a Community Amateur Sports Club with HMRC, a new kit supplier (VX3), purchase of video recording equipment and a very successful juniors tour to Bilbao in October.

Overall, whilst availability was very variable, numbers were good and the club had been able to offer an appropriate level of hockey for everyone that wanted to play. It was agreed that the club continued to meet its objective of being an affordable and accessible option for hockey.

Looking ahead, new summer 'Club Days' were planned and the establishment of a 'development' session for anyone over 13 on Saturday mornings from September to cater for beginners/Back to Hockey who weren't quite ready for league hockey yet. The club would continue to consolidate at Harris Morden as its base with outreach to local schools.

#### **4. Behaviour & Discipline Policy**

SP outlined a proposed Behaviour and Discipline Policy based on England Hockey 'Spirit of Hockey' guidance and good practice. She highlighted measures of avoid conflicts of interest and the new policy was agreed.

PN highlighted the need for an improvement in attitudes towards umpires, which would also encourage more umpires to step forward. It was agreed that umpires should be less tolerant of any abuse. It was suggested that Spirit of Hockey and Safeguarding Posters should be sought and put up at Harris Morden if possible.

#### **5. 2025/26 Accounts & 26/27 Budget**

CE outlined headlines from accounts that were tabled:

Income (v last year)

- Subscriptions: £35.9k v £32.8k (2nd year running that Juniors & Women subs up, whilst Men's down due mainly to more juniors playing adult hockey)
- Bar: £4.3k (£6.1k in 2025 & £3.2k in 2024)
- Socials: £3.1k (£3.4k in 2025 & £1.7k in 2024)
- Grants: £10.2k (£8.7k in 2025)

Expenditure (v last year)

- Pitch Hire: £50.8k (£49.6k in 2025)
- England Hockey & League Fees £5.2k (£4.8k in 2025)
- Clubhouse: £1k (£630k in 2025)

Overall, there was a deficit of £1567 at outturn to the end of April.

A new pay per play (PAYG) subs option was agreed along with the following rates for 2026/27:

- Juniors (U8, one session pw): £75
- Juniors (8yrs-U12): £145
- Inbetweeners (12-25yrs): £175 + £5 match fee for adult matches
- Adults 25+ pre-pay: £325
- Adults PAYG: £195 + £10 match fee
- Social/associate (<5 games): £25 + £5 match fee for adult matches
- Discounted: (Qualified umpires, coaches, GKs, Cttee member) either £125 + £10 match fee (refundable as credit for each match umpired or session coached) or £160 pre-pay.

All junior memberships to include a £25 adult social membership and all subs to be paid by the end of October, after which a 20% penalty to be payable. It was also agreed that match fees should be paid within 5 days, with outstanding fees resulting in non-selection.

#### **6. Election of Committee 2026/27**

CW thanked everyone who had served on the Committee and emphasised that posts should only be seen as one-year roles as it was important to spread the load. The following nominees were elected, with vacancies hopefully to be filled over the summer and new junior reps to be elected in the Autumn. It was suggested that the comms and socials posts could rotate if no candidates came forward.

<b>Post</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>President</b>	<i>David Brooks</i>	<i>David Brooks</i>
<b>Club Captain</b>	<i>Chris Walker</i>	<i>Chris Walker</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Christian Elson</i>	<i>Christian Elson</i>
<b>Umpire Co-ordinator</b>	<i>Tom Procter</i>	<i>Tom Procter</i>
<b>Welfare &amp; Disc. Officer</b>	<i>Sarah Pope</i>	<i>Sarah Pope</i>
<b>Clubhouse &amp; Bar Rep</b>	<i>Mariaan Venter</i>	<i>Mariaan Venter</i>
<b>Equipment Officer</b>	<i>Yee Ean Ong</i>	<i>Will Murray-Jones</i>
<b>Socials</b>	<i>Virginia Van West</i>	
<b>Comms</b>	<i>Vihias Jayakody</i>	
<b>Juniors Co-ordinator</b>	<i>Sarah Young</i>	<i>Sarah Young</i>
<b>Junior Reps</b>	<i>Emma Young &amp; Zac Howes</i>	<i>Elections in Autumn</i>
<b>Women's 1s Captain</b>	<i>Virginia Van West</i>	<i>Gene Samuels</i>
<b>Women's 2s Captain</b>	<i>Sarah Young</i>	<i>Sarah Young</i>
<b>Men's 1s Captain</b>	<i>John Wrigglesworth &amp; Julian Brown</i>	<i>John Wrigglesworth &amp; Julian Brown</i>
<b>Men's 2s Captain</b>	<i>Steve Chambers</i>	<i>Steve Chambers</i>
<b>Men's Boars Captain</b>	<i>Josh Hunt</i>	
<b>Men's Summer Captain</b>	<i>Stuart Lothian</i>	<i>Stuart Lothian</i>
<b>Joint Mixed Captains</b>	<i>Charlie Carter</i>	

## **7. Any Other Business**

WM-J highlighted the importance of concussion protocols and offered to purchase posters/leaflets to raise awareness.

JB urged that new face masks be purchased for teams and highlighted the importance of keeping older junior girls engaged through their transition to senior hockey. WM-J to audit kit and specifically (medium) GK kit as part of equipment role.

The issue of floodlights being turned on and off was raised and CW explained that the school wouldn't allow lights after 9pm in the week but that full hockey lighting was permitted at weekends and he would speak to the letting agents (Vivify) about turning this on at the start of matches.

The lack of heating in the clubhouse was raised and it was agreed that we should install and certify heaters if the Council still hasn't fixed it by next season/winter.