



Minutes of the Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club

Annual General Meeting

Friday 23rd June 2023, 7.00pm, via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Executive Committee Members: Martin Marshall (meeting Chair), David Kingstone (Head of Wheelchair), Brett Greenwood (Head of Youth), Dan North (Head of Seniors), Alex Fogarty (Treasurer), Annabelle Hardiman (Secretary)

Club attendees: Jenny Marshall, Ed Fenech

Apologies: None

ITEM NO.	NOTES	ACTION
The meeting commenced at 7:00pm.		
1.	<p>Welcome from the acting Chair</p> <p>Martin Marshall welcomed everyone to the 2023 Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club (the "Club") and gave his thanks to all those in the Executive Committee for carrying out their roles over the season, including rotating the position of Chair of the Club.</p> <p>Martin explained that he was standing in as meeting Chair of the AGM due to the position of the Chair of the Club continuing to be vacant. It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the 2023 AGM, held on 29 June 2022, were considered and accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Section Updates</p> <p>An update was provided by Brett Greenwood, David Kingstone and Dan North on the Youth, Wheelchair and Senior Sections, respectively.</p> <p><i>Youth Section</i></p> <p>Seven teams had been entered into the National League ("NL") for the 2022/23 season, including the first girls team since the 2023/24 season. A further nine teams had been entered into the Bracknell Central Venue League ("CVL").</p> <p>The season had been successful across the Section, with most teams finishing around mid-table. Some key successes included the U12's NL (mixed) winning their division undefeated for the second year in a row, and the U16's CVL boys reached the playoff quarter-finals.</p>	

The U12's had been invited to a tournament in Holland, which was a great experience for the players to play against strong European teams. The U17s were also attending a tournament in Spain the following week.

Training reversible had been introduced at the start of the season, with players being given 50% off their first purchase.

The relationship between the Club and Woking College had been improved, with the creation of a pathway for Club players to join the College and play in the Surrey Sixth Form League. Ten players had joined the College at the start of the season and played for the College team, finishing the season undefeated.

Trials had been held in April for the next season, with over 30 new players registering with the Club. This brought the Youth Section to over 200 registered players.

The next season would be largely the same as the 2022/23 season. The exception was the U14 set up, where five teams would be created – 1 NL, 1 CVL and 3 teams in a Blackhawks only league.

Young Coaches Dev Program

The number of registered players did place a heavy reliance on coaching staff. To assist, a Young Coaches Development Program was being set up to introduce and develop players to coaching.

Martin acknowledged the success of the Youth Section over the year, which continued to go from strength to strength.

Wheelchair Section

David explained that the wheelchair team played in the Division Two South league, which required a considerable amount of travel to games across the South of England and Wales. The team had played 14 games, won 5 and lost 8, finishing 5th overall. The team started the season with 14 players and finished with 10 active players. Overall, the team had underperformed expectations across the season, largely due to injuries affecting players' availability for games.

The section would like to have two teams next season, to provide opportunities for a broader range of players to compete. However, it was unlikely that the section would have sufficient players for two teams although there had been some recent interest from new players, in particular from a local team that was potentially going to fold.

There were financial challenges for many players in the section, which would need to be discussed with the Executive Committee before committing to the next season.

David reported that the World Championships had recently been played in Dubai, where five of the players (four women) had at one point in time played for Woking Blackhawks.

Martin congratulated David for his active role in wheelchair basketball worldwide, noting that he had recently been part of the British Delegation for World Congress.

David noted his thanks to the two individuals who had taken over as coach since the start of the meeting, at least one of whom had committed to continuing in their role next year.

Seniors Section

Dan gave this thanks to those that stepped in over the season to help run the section due to a change in personal circumstances meaning he was not able to dedicate as much time to the role.

	<p>The Senior Section had operated with 4 Men's/Open League teams and 2 Ladies league teams, meaning there was a team within each of the six Wessex division for the first time.</p> <p>WBH1s competed in the first division of the Wessex Open league, finishing 3rd place and making the playoffs but losing 101-76 against BC Green White Boys. They also reached the quarter finals of the Karl Taylor cup.</p> <p>WBH2s competed in the second division of the Wessex Open league, finishing 4th place and making the playoffs. They reached the playoff finals but lost 76-71 against South Bucks Comets. They also reached the final of the Karl Taylor Plate, losing 88-75 against Yateley Silverbacks.</p> <p>WBH3s competed in the third division of the Wessex Open league, finishing 8th place. They came up against WBH1s in the 3rd round of the Karl Taylor Cup, losing 101-38.</p> <p>WBH4s competed in the fourth division of the Wessex Open league, finishing 12th place. They left the Karl Taylor Cup in the 2nd round, by default.</p> <p>Ladies 1s competed in the first division of the Wessex Ladies league, finishing 3rd place and making the playoffs. They reached the playoff finals and won against Winchester Royal Ladies 68-69. They also reached the final of the Richard Bell Cup, again beating Winchester Royals Ladies 56-59.</p> <p>Ladies 2s competed in the second division of the Wessex Ladies league, finishing 9th place.</p> <p>Looking ahead, the Senior Section was looking strong, with around 50 registered players.</p> <p>Dan noted his intention to step down as Head of Section. However, due to no-one putting themselves forward for the role, he was willing to continue on a temporary basis until a suitable replacement is find, albeit in a limited capacity.</p> <p>No changes were planned for the next season, other than potentially reviewing the training schedule to ensure all teams are getting the right balance of training sessions and game time.</p> <p>Martin shared that the Wessex league was looking to reduce the number of teams in each division for the 2023/24 season, to reduce congestion with arranging courts for games, in particular where games were impacted by court closures.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Volunteers and Referees</p> <p>Martin noted that it was good to see some new officials (referees) representing the Club (including the Wintons). It was also encouraging to see some new younger players having completed a table officiating course recently, although there was a need to encourage more people to get involved in table officiating.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Alex Fogarty presented her report of the Club's accounts and finances.</p> <p>Bank Balances as at 31 May 2023</p> <p>Main Account: £2,357 Seniors Account: £3,507 Wheelchair Account: £2,125 Youth Account: £20,625</p>	

	<p>Donations In total, £4,452 had been received, down from £13,811 the previous year.</p> <p>The reduction in donations received was primarily due to a lack of resource to look for opportunities and complete applications. Any volunteers who would be able to dedicate some time to this would be welcomed.</p> <p>Cash Floats</p> <p>Alex explained that most teams continued to hold cash floats for certain payments, e.g. referee expenses. The Scrutineer had once again requested that, where possible, teams move away from cash payments so that a full audit trail of payments could be maintained and facilitate the scrutineer of the accounts. Teams were asked to consider whether they could move away from making cash payments.</p> <p>Accounts The accounts had been reviewed by a Scrutineer.</p> <p><u>Noticeable changes from the accounts last year:</u></p> <p>There was a new line for the Head of Youth. The income from all Youth holiday camps and after school clubs, which are organised by the Head of Youth, is now paid to the Head of Youth (less any related expenses). 20% of the net profit is retained by the Club.</p> <p>There was £1,370 included under expenses for Tournaments, which related to the U17s trip to Spain and would be refunded prior to the tour by the players.</p> <p>£410.80 had been included, representing the Club's 50% contribution to fix the shot clock and rim of the basket at Woking College.</p> <p>£621 was received into the Senior's account for monies owed for a door that was broken at Woking College more than five years ago.</p> <p>Youth Fundamentals: It was noted that this was a loss leader, however, it was felt important for the Club to continue to offer this, to provide an accessible way for the local community to play basketball. The loss for Youth Fundamentals this season, was around £400.</p> <p>Alex reminded attendees that anyone in financial difficulty and unable to meet the cost of subs should approach their Head of Section, to ensure that no-one was excluded from basketball on a financial basis.</p> <p>Alex also informed attendees that the Scrutineer's report and the Club's Accounts were available on the Club website for all members to view.</p> <p>No questions were raised on the accounts.</p> <p>The accounts were approved and accepted for signing.</p> <p>The Executive Committee would meet to consider the appropriate transfer of funds from each of the section accounts to the main account, for the purpose of the contingency fund.</p> <p>Thanks were noted to Alex for her diligence to the Treasurer's role over the season, including managing expenses and myclubhouse.</p>	<p>Annabelle Hardiman</p> <p>Executive Committee</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Amendments to the Constitution</p> <p>No amendments to the Constitution had been proposed.</p>	

7.	<p>Election of Officers</p> <p>The following individuals were proposed and accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Russell Fernandes • Secretary: Annabelle Hardiman • Treasurer: Alex Fogarty • Head of Youth Basketball: Brett Greenwood • Head of Seniors Basketball: No nominations had been received prior to the AGM. Subject to no-one stepping forward before the start of the next season, Dan North agreed to continue as temporary Head of the Seniors for the time being. • Head of Wheelchair Basketball: David Kingstone <p>All officers were elected unopposed.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to everyone for agreeing to take on the roles.</p> <p>The Executive Committee was authorised to appoint a Safeguarding Officer(s) and a Data Protection Officer, with the following being appointed as Safeguarding Officers: Andy Vale (Youth, although this was subject to change); Lisa Bhaura (Seniors); Lynne Brown (Wheelchair). The Executive Committee had agreed not to appoint a Data Protection Officer to date.</p> <p>Martin reminded attendees that if others would like to join the Committee, roles were available and new input would be very welcome.</p>	
7.	<p>Registration fees for 2023/24 season</p> <p>Fees charged by each Section would be agreed formally by the Executive Committee prior to the start of the next season.</p>	Executive Committee
8.	<p>“Towards a Blackhawks Basketball Centre”</p> <p>The Club’s business case for setting up its own training venue had been published online, on “Your Fund Surrey”, over two years ago. This would be updated to ensure it was correct and up to date, although it was noted that the current financial environment in Woking meant it was unlikely that funding would be easy to find.</p>	Martin
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>David thanked Martin for being willing to Chair the meeting today and for all his support to the Executive Committee and the Club in general throughout the year.</p> <p>There being no further business, Martin thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	
The meeting ended at 7.45pm		