

# Poole Hockey Club AGM 2023/24 – minutes

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## Attendees:

1 Terry Harding (Life)	8 Thalia Galloway	15 Ruth Wharton	21 Paul Fletcher
2 Mike Hampton (Life)	9 Casey Fudge	16 Adam Roberts	22 Steven Carter
3 Deb Chase (Life)	10 Martin Wollington	17 Marie-Pierre Cottam	23 Emma Griffen
4 Adrian Potter (Life)	11 Richard Evetts	18 Jason Phillips	24 Sarah Badley
5 Heather King (VP)	12 Alex Vores	19 Alastair King	25 George Collen
6 Elliott Mills	13 David Jeffery	20 Matt Jeffery	26 Theo Smith
7 Katy Wright	14 Daniel Potts		
Lucy Griffen (U16)	Jennifer Clarke (U16)	Thomas Dickinson (U16)	Trevor Bailey (parent)

## 1. Apologies (16+ members only, i.e. with voting rights)

Duncan Kirwin (VP)	Dan Dickens	Adam Bowers	Helena Darragh
Paul Roberts (VP)	Nick Jeffrey	Emily Hackforth	Rhian Hockey
Scott Westfield	Kirsty Walker	Megan Tumelty	Nickie Spalding
Lewis Smith	Dominique Rodriguez	Stephen Riley	Graeme Ramsay
Ben Pocknell	Tim Phillips	Kirsty Newton	Lisa Maidman
Hannah Lang	Laura Allen	Ben Kimber	Genevieve Huntley
Daniel Worthington	Hazel Fendley	Rachel Austin	

## 2. Approval of previous minutes

Previous minutes approved by Thalia Galloway, seconded by Paul Fletcher.

## 3. Season 2022/23 reports

**Club award winners can be found at [www.poolehockeyclub.co.uk/club-info/news](http://www.poolehockeyclub.co.uk/club-info/news)**

### *Chairperson – Ruth Wharton*

This season has been a season of many emotions, low and high, but overall it's been another good season for Poole Hockey Club. Club membership numbers have remained stable and we've been delighted to welcome some familiar faces back to the club.

For the senior section, following the promotion of both the men and women 1s teams last season, plus men 2s staying in south division 4 (which was as good as a promotion due to double promotion the previous season) we knew it was likely to be a tough season. Despite the high expectations which come following promotions, all senior teams have managed to remain the same division for next season.

For the junior section, the standard of coaching continues to improve and we've received some really good feedback from parents.

I believe the club has many highlights and positives from this season:

- Updated / new club policy and guideline documents written:
  - Development strategy and action plan.
  - Safeguarding policy.
  - Behaviour guidelines.



- Website changes (please do have a look and share any feedback).
- Increased social media activity.
- Increased number of junior coaches sharing Tuesday coaching and Sunday tournaments, giving variety for the players and welcomed rest weeks for the coaches.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of sponsorship from Charles Trent Ltd and Amethyst Sports.
- No relegations across senior teams.
- Reintroduction of the women 2s team.
- U14s attending senior development coaching, aiding the transition from junior to senior hockey.
- Well attended senior Christmas & EOS Awards Celebration events, thoroughly enjoyed by all.
- Continuation of Thursday senior indoor game sessions.
- Improved attendance at coaching sessions.
- Students from Milton Abbey School joining in with the women's coaching sessions.
- Involvement with South Coast Talent Academy (now with representation on the board).
- Sam Beveridge from GB Hockey ran 3 sessions for our coaches (x2 online and x1 in person).
- Introduction of U8s Saturday morning coaching sessions.

No season goes without its challenges and things we can work on:

- No umpiring assessments.
- Low junior member numbers.
- Lack of match time for our U14 players, due to low numbers.
- Room for improvement with game day team organisation and discipline.
- More work needed with engaging schools in hockey (started with Broadstone).
- ClubMark remains outstanding.

None of this takes anything away from what we have achieved this season and I believe that we have the foundations to make next just as good and if not better.

### **Thank yous**

Without the help and support of various people throughout the season the club would not exist. This season we've been grateful to have more people involved and helping to lighten the workload. Even the tiniest bit of help has made a huge difference, anything from washing bibs or taking the kit bag to a match, to organising a team social or taking on a Club role. So, if you have offered or given any help at all throughout the season, no matter how big or small, thank you! The Club simply wouldn't function and be as brilliant as it is without you!!

There are a few people who have gone above and beyond to help. Firstly, all the coaches and umpires. The club gives a small financial incentive for umpiring and coaching, in the form of discounted membership or match fees, but this really is just a small token of appreciation. There are also many people who give their time without any financial thank you, our club volunteers.

Every week we all turn up to play hockey, we arrive, play and go home, but there is a huge amount of work which goes on in the background to allow that to happen. Filling in Teamo and GMS with various bits of information, communicating with players, organising drivers, hunting for players on weeks when we're short...the list goes on. Hazel, Katy, MP, Lisa, Theo, Nick, Gareth, Martin and Rich have all been involved with team management over the season, getting us all to games and playing.

There are also several people who support the broader running of the club, everything from keeping us all safe whilst participating in hockey to working to grow the club and seeking opportunities for us all to enjoy and benefit from. Plus a handful volunteer coaches and umpires who don't play.

- Lloyd Moore – helps with senior coaching.
- John Hodgman – umpires and helps with junior coaching.



- Trevor Dyson – club umpire over many seasons, also often seen on the sidelines supporting.
- Ali King – GK coach, has umpired the most matches this season and has recently taken on the role of Umpire Development Officer, supporting and encouraging more club umpires.
- Sarah Badley – Welfare Officer.
- Helena Darragh – Kit Manager and also sourced an amazing list of donations for our prize draw.
- George Collen – Discipline Officer.
- Mike Hampton – Schools Liaison and previously the main point of contact with The Pilot.
- Nickie Spalding & Trevor Bailey – Match Day Secretaries.
- Deb Chase – organises club umpires every week.
- MP Cottam – Christmas and EOS event organising (with help from Martin and Casey) and has also helped with our social media, do you know we now have a Club Tik Tok?!
- Casey Fudge – leads on the junior side of the club.
- Laura Allen – organises Thursday indoor sessions.
- Scott Chappell – who took some fab match photos, hoping to join us for more games next season.
- Adrian Potter – our Club President, overseeing all aspects of the club offering help and support.

And last, but certainly not least, Paul, TJ and Martin. These guys spend many hours in the background sorting paperwork, dealing with associations, attending meetings, making sure we have the right equipment, constructively challenging to ensure the best for our club members... the list goes on!

So, to all the Coaches, Umpires, Team Managers, Club Officers and anyone else I haven't mentioned, a huge huge thank you for all your hard work and involvement with making the hockey club what it is. Poole Hockey Club is a vitally important community club and your involvement contributes to improving the health and wellbeing of us all. As always, if you think you can give any time to help with anything (big or small), many hands make light work and we'll be grateful for and welcome you're input.

We have also received kind donations from some of our Honorary Members, plus some who have donated their fuel expenses back to the club (particularly the Baileys), and everyone who has bought tickets for the prize draw! These kind contributions enable the club to fund things such as coaching equipment, social events, training our coaches and umpires etc.

We also have a special mention of gratitude, to Lisa from The Pilot. Lisa will shortly be leaving The Pilot and we will be sad to see her go but hope that we can continue the positive relationship with the new management.

#### *Recommendations for next season*

- Creation of Club Captain/s – to provide support to Team Managers and players, aiding the movement of players between teams and supporting Team Managers with selection to ensure player progression and building the strongest teams possible. The hope is that this will support a smoother process for weekly selection and enable the elected management committee to remain impartial and only get involved with decisions when there is a club consideration. Role description to be prepared over the summer and shared with all team managers for input.
- Creation of guideline documents to clarify club expectations with the aim of supporting Team Managers and other relevant club officers. Documents to cover and provide information about:
  - Selection
  - Playing
  - Forfeiting a match

- Coaching (dependant on the team standard)
- Consider club budgets with the intention of sourcing and allocating additional funds to developing the club's coaching offer in the future.

#### *Treasurer – Thalia Galloway*

I'm going to take us back to last season for the presentation of last season's accounts (2022/23), club members can view via Teamo [from the home page select 'The Club' (middle bottom), then the folder icon (top right, below the search bar), 'Club accounts', 'POOLE HOCKEY CLUB ACCOUNTS 300423']. Last season we spent lots of money. Does anybody remember from last season's report where we spend money?

- Ashdown for our pitch time.
- Food: we do not spend money on food. The Pilot provides our teas free of charge. We've been in a really fortunate position and that's been happening for years and years. And with Lisa hanging up her cap here, we are potentially at risk next season. We may need to have a conversation next season if we need to start paying for teas, but I'm really hoping we don't need to.
- Rossmore for any indoor stuff that we do there.
- We pay our affiliation fees, which comes with our membership of England Hockey. We get the support of England Hockey but also provides for our insurance, which very sadly we do sometimes have to use.

All our membership fees go to our annual obligations:

- Coaching pitch fees.
- Entering the South Central league.
- Paying for the appointed umpires that we have at those games. And when I say paying for them, I'll remind you they don't receive payments. They are paid fuel to get to your games where they are volunteering.

Then of course we collect match fees. The match fees help to pay for the pitches at the game and they helped to pay for us to get to those games. So lots of money in and out.

There's a nice beautiful sheet that tells us here at the end of last season we ended up with money in the bank. It's the number at the bottom, aka the bottom line. For the 2022/23 column, look to the bottom and the number does not have brackets around it, meaning it's positive. And that says £2,460.

I will remind you when going into this season (2023/24) I advised that we should not have any increase in membership fees and we also did not increase our match fees. Despite Everyone Active (who run Ashdown and Rossmore Leisure Centres) putting their prices up by 10%. The pitches aren't cheap. We've done okay this season and it's looking like we're going to balance out ok.

We've done lots of exciting things this year:

- We have organised the England Hockey session for the coaches to develop themselves, which very thankfully we had a sponsor called Jade Aden come forward and they gave us some money to help pay for that.
- We obviously continue with our Trent's sponsorship of our kit and Amethyst Sports sponsoring our junior kit.

If you work for a company who are very desperate to give some money out, we are very keen to hear from you. There is plethora of opportunities for people to throw money at us and we will come up with a big, long list. We will describe everything. Obviously, we've got a huge reach, right? We are a club with a vast membership, and we travel all across the South Central area. So please if you know somebody who might want to give us some cash, that would be great because of Ashdown's



increases and as we look to next season, I am wanting us to help invest more into our coaching and we also need to investigate into our umpire development. Ruth mentioned that we've not put any umpires through their qualifications this year. We need to, so that we can support with umpires at the lower levels and make sure that our teams are getting the right support that they need.

There are a couple of investments that we want to make there. Of course, Ashdown last year told us they gave us a 10% increase. I'm still nervous about what might happen this year. For anybody not aware, Ashdown Leisure Centre and Rossmore will return to the control of BCP Council later this year and therefore I have no idea if they're planning on another price increase.

My advice to the next elected management committee will be to increase marginally our membership prices. I'm going to advise an increase to individual membership prices of £5. Do we think possibly we could just drink one less pint this week then hopefully it is affordable. For family membership, I'm going to be advising the next management committee to increase that by £10 and for concessionary members a general increase of £5.

We're going to make all our concessionary members into one membership category. Whether you are an under 18, unemployed, work fewer than 30 hours a week etc we're going to put you all into one category and that is going to be the one concession rate. And my advice is for this rate to be £80.

The other thing I will be advising the next management committee, whoever they might be when they get elected later, is to increase our match fees by 50p. I appreciate that will add up across the season, but I will remind you at this point, if you don't enjoy paying match fees: if you volunteer to umpire, you get a match credit. If you help with coaching and you take a junior team to a tournament on a Sunday, you will get a match credit. i.e. there are ways that you can save on money as well. So, if you are looking at your finances thinking how am I going to do it? Please step up and volunteer for roles like that. If you are coaching in any capacity of any age group of coaching, we look at how many hours you've delivered of coaching over the last year, and we give you a proportion off your next season membership fees. So again, there is an incentive to help with coaching in the club. There is an incentive to help with umpiring and hopefully we can all agree that those are not major changes.

However, it's not up for approval now because I get to sit down. That's the end of my treasurer's report. Thank you very much.

#### *Club Disciplinary Officer – George Collen*

Firstly, I'm pleased to report another season with no red cards. This is always a good opening.

The club has had its fair share of yellow and green cards as per the table below (information recorded on Teamo).

Team	Green	Yellow	Total
<b>Men 1</b>	17	15	32
<b>Women 1</b>	16	3	19
<b>Men 2</b>	20	7	27
<b>Women 2</b>	4	0	4
<b>Men 3 / Dolphins</b>	3	0	3
<b>Club</b>	60	25	85

Men 1 have a fair percentage, and I think they got caught out with promotion to division 1 in the weeks leading up to Xmas. In the weeks post Xmas there has been a real improvement in terms of cards on the pitch and culture off the pitch.

Good to see the Men 3 and Women 2 have very few cards as they harbour the development side of the club.



Away from cards and pitch discipline I have had to address a couple of internal issues, and again I think the culture of the club has moved forward significantly in the second part of the season and I have had no issues raised since Xmas.

I think the new policies in place will ensure behaviour, discipline and inclusivity are forefront of the club's ethos.

We had one external unsavoury incident, and one I hope nobody has to endure again. I felt most disappointed in the club where we dealt with who were at fault. However, I cannot be prouder of the way Poole Hockey club players and officials dealt with the matter.

The club has a real community feel and I hope this continues on and off the pitch, which we all have the power to influence.

### *Coaching – Paul Fletcher*

This season we began with more coaching groups put on with the splitting of the women into 2 squads, meaning as usual trying to maximise time, space and resources.

The women 1 started the season with no coach and again we pass on our sincere thanks to Hazel and Katy for getting the season underway for the women 1. Adrian joined the men 1 mid Nov after Nick and Theo had taken the start of the season for the men, we also thank them for their efforts with the squad, especially in the distributive early weeks. New member to the club Stephen Riley took over the men 3 from myself again in November. Martin leading the women 2 sessions adding more assistants throughout the year as his group grew and grew.

We took the decision to invite all members in school years 8 and above (aged 12/13) to our senior sessions, rather than running a set U14 session like previous years, with the strong establishment of the women 2 and some young, very young, faces appearing in the men 3 late into the season this has paid dividends with all members improving and making valuable contributions to their teams.

We continue to have constricted times and pitch space due to pitch commitments at Ashdown. With the recently completed 3G pitch developments at Rossmore we hope that pitch time maybe freed up with football clubs relocating from Ashdown to Rossmore. We have already expressed interests in more pitch time and we hope to update you on this over the summer. As alluded to during the winter questionnaire, we hope to secure sometime on Wednesdays.

We carried out, and continue to be committed to hearing from you, our members, on how coaching can be improved, following the survey mid-season, tweaks to coaches, plans were made, I would like to encourage any feedback to be continue to be passed on to myself, even throughout the season and not just during these avenues.

Having introduced indoor sessions this season, we plan to carry on providing these throughout next season, thank you Laura for organising these sessions.

Numbers at sessions throughout the season have varied. The woman's sessions have been fantastically attended, bolstered by the tie up with a local school, I look forward to seeing this grow again next season. The men's attendance at sessions however have been poorly attended, at times, however improved post January, hopefully with a more settled team in the same league next year will settle these numbers throughout the season.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to all our coaches, Hazel, Katy, Nick, Theo, Martin, Ali, Lloyd, Steve, Casey, Dave, Bob and Lowie.

Goals for next season:

- Settled start to the season with coaches and teams.
- Introduce a 2nd night of coaching.
- Further develop our young stars and have more playing come Saturdays.





### *Juniors – Casey Fudge*

It has been great seeing our junior players improve over the season, not only their hockey skills but also their friendships. Although the junior section of the club is small, the players we do have bring lots of energy, commitment, enthusiasm and fun and are eager to learn. We've been delighted to welcome some new players throughout the season which is fantastic and I'm hopeful we'll get more juniors coming along to hockey next season.

This season the club started an U8s Saturday morning group which started off small with just a couple of players, but throughout the season we have seen more come along and join in. These sessions have been regularly attended and it's brilliant to see players enjoying hockey at such a young age.

The U10s and U12s have competed in tournaments throughout the season which have been great for them to practise what they have learned at coaching, getting good results and enjoying the experience. A personal highlight for me was the Poole hosted tournament which showed the club in its best light – thank you to all the coaches, umpires, players and parents who made it such a success. A proud moment for the club!

Sadly, again we didn't have enough U14s to make a team but we were grateful to be invited by local teams to join with them to enable some pitch time for our U14 players. This age group is included in both the junior and senior sections of the club. To help transition players into senior hockey, these players are invited to join the senior development coaching sessions. This has been a great success and the club has benefitted from these players joining the senior development teams and starting to play in Saturday matches.

Some feedback from our junior coaches:

- U8s – A bundle of energy and tonnes of fun for a Saturday morning, sometimes more exhausting than playing a full game of hockey. Have loved every minute of coaching this group, you're a joy! Look forward to more next season!
- U10s – The season started with welcoming players into the club, and up into the U10 age group. We've grown a lot throughout the year: starting with some balls skills and developing to start thinking more about pitch positioning. And as the season came towards the end, we started to see structure in match play, rather than buzzy bees!
- U12s – They've all made great progress this year, their skills have improved, and in every session, everyone has been involved, invested and try their best. Their decision making has gotten better and they're beginning to see the bigger picture when playing on the field. There are still improvements to be made, of course, during games communication, spacing in both attack and defence, but that will come with more training and experience. They've been a great bunch to train, it's been enjoyable, and they've taken on the advice from all the coaches and put what they're learning into action.
- U14 boys – The players have been receptive throughout and have been improving as hockey players as the season has progressed. We expect several of the players to be making their way through the senior ranks next season.
- U14 girls – It's been an absolute pleasure and the growth you have all shown has been incredible. It has been such a fun experience and I hope to coach you again next year with new ideas to help you improve even more. You all have great potential and never give up.

Juniors come to Poole Hockey Club not only to learn and become better hockey players but because we're very welcoming and we have fun! It's because of the commitment our coaches give to training that players develop and progress throughout the season. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have hockey teams and player improvement so I do want to say a big thank you to the junior coaches Lewis, Hazel, TJ, Megan, Ben, Monty, Ed, John, Alex, Kirsty, Lucy, Sam and Ruth for all their hard work and effort this season.



Targets for next season:

- Get more junior players at the club, please bring a friend, tell them how amazing Poole hockey club is and how amazing your coaches are.
- We're always looking for more coaches so, parents please come and have a chat if interested.
- Build up working relationship with schools to get more juniors involved, Mike Hampton will be looking into this so please let us know if you have any school contacts we can utilise.
- Involvement with the England Hockey Talent Academy, as a club we have join the management committee for the South Coast Talent Academy. Being involved should help us understand what is required and hopefully making it a leading pathway for our juniors.

And finally, I would like to say a big thank you to the parents. Week in, week out you stand on the side of the pitch in the cold and wet so your child can enjoy the sport they love, or maybe it's for an hour of peace? Thank you for coming every week and choosing us as a club, we can't thank you enough.

Summer coaching:

Starting 7<sup>th</sup> May we have our 10-week summer coaching programme, full info on Teamo. Please mark if your child will be attending or not.

Feedback from parents:

Enjoyed the chance to play mini games and practice spacing and passing with his team. He's enjoyed being included in some of the tournaments and has formed some lovely bonds with the coaches who have encouraged and challenged him.
Loved hockey this year, the opportunity to be with the u12s has helped his game and confidence enormously.
Thank you so much for all you do.
You have all been really amazing, really listened and helped. Thank you.
Thank you have all been great and really welcoming into to the team.
It's been great.
Coaching has been much better this year - good pace of session, more engaging and not doing same drill for too long...also having a change of coach has been beneficial too.

*Men 1s – Theo Smith / Adrian Potter*

Poole men 1 entered what would be the toughest league they have played in for 15 years and since the formation of the open league system.

With 2 teams down from premier division 2 and another dropping 2 divisions (from premier division 1) we knew it was going to be tough with several teams boosting ex national league players in their ranks, added into that 50% of the defence that have got us into this division missing.

The season did not start well with only one game which was delayed for several hours due to traffic to prepare Poole we were on the back foot from the off.

Getting beaten convincingly and some break ups in team relationships we decided to go back to basics knowing that we needed to be 3 seconds quicker. Our first point was against second place Southampton Uni and then our first win came at home against Isle of Wight. So at Christmas we were looking relegation in its face. Especially after an interesting game at Gillingham where the umpire stopped the game and got the other umpire to apologise to our players!



New year new start. Whilst the second half was better and we competed, narrowly losing to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. We knew we had it in us to win and that surprise came again at 2<sup>nd</sup> place Southampton Uni, beating them on their own tuff (ironically the points lost them promotion). We now knew a positive result on the island of cousins would secure div one hockey for another season. We managed a point which seemed enough but a win against local rivals would've sealed it. A tough and tumble game against Gillingham resulted in the win we needed, and some security.

Team statistics (from Teamo):

- Goals                Elliott 16    Jason 8        George 7
- Green cards        Elliott 5     Nick 3        Casey 3
- Yellow cards       Elliott 5     Nick 3        Jason 2
- Red cards           0
- Games Played      George 23   Tom P 21    Bob, Ollie, Lewis 20

We had several candidates for Muppet of the season. In fact more than 1 player, Elliott had more cards from umpires than Valentine's Day, Bob telling players not to moan at umpires 10 minutes later you guessed it, Chris being more active the night before than the game against Alton than the actual game, Jason playing kiss chase with the bouncers at Isle of Wight, Casey being told to ask Santa for some new astros, Tom forgetting his kit. But the winner goes to the player the umpire's thought was better suited in a pool rather than an astro for his dives. So, muppet of the season goes to Lewis Smith.

South Central Men's Division 1 South								
Team Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Winchester 1	22	18	3	1	96	38	58	57
Havant 2	22	15	1	6	81	48	33	46
Southampton University 1	22	13	6	3	93	45	48	45
Portsmouth 1	22	13	5	4	78	39	39	44
Chichester 2	22	10	7	5	57	34	23	37
Hamble 1	22	10	4	8	69	77	-8	34
Bournemouth M2	22	9	2	11	62	65	-3	28
Trojans 2	22	6	5	11	49	69	-20	23
Alton 1	22	6	5	11	45	67	-22	23
Gillingham 1	22	4	3	15	54	89	-35	15
Poole 1	22	3	2	17	45	106	-61	11
Isle of Wight 1	22	2	3	17	34	86	-52	8

### Women 1s – Paul Fletcher

It was a challenging start to the season with a new division, the highest yet, and without a coach as they had stepped down last minute to pursue other opportunities.

The season started with a run of games where we didn't need to leave the BCP area until the 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. Results were close, with 3 wins pre-Xmas and with only the last game before Xmas break being lost by more than one goal showed we could compete and push all the teams in the division.

Following the Christmas break the hockey we started to play was amazing, slick pass and move hockey, a couple of results against Wimborne and Southampton Uni did not tell the tale of how we were playing, but back to back wins 4-0 at the IoW and 8-1 at home to Bournemouth 3s really demonstrated that we had truly settled into the division.

Come February and the strange decision of relegation lines had arrived. 4 teams down, 1 up. A third of the league were to be relegated, ridiculous. And with a run of games against fellow mid table

sides all now in a struggle to stay up, we found ourselves surrounded by 2s teams who all now apparently had new squads.... However, with it all to play for in the last game of the season, it all came together with a resounding performance of total hockey, signing off with an 8-3 win against eventual 3<sup>rd</sup> place Bournemouth 2s and another season in div 1 secured, also securing the highest scoring, and highest placed team in the club on the way.

Thank you to the team for all their efforts throughout the 23/24 season, onto next year and a potential promotion push?

South Central Women's Division 1 South								
Team Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Southampton University 1	22	22	0	0	86	17	69	66
Wimborne Wayfarers 1	22	15	3	4	47	29	18	47
Bournemouth W2	22	13	5	4	55	38	17	44
Haslemere 2	22	10	2	10	34	34	0	32
Fareham 2	22	8	5	9	39	33	6	29
Havant 2	22	8	5	9	51	46	5	29
Southampton 2	22	8	5	9	38	43	-5	29
Poole 1	22	8	3	11	58	53	5	27
Andover 1	22	7	5	10	35	44	-9	26
Romsey 1	22	7	4	11	36	47	-11	25
Isle Of Wight 1	22	3	3	16	18	55	-37	12
Bournemouth W3	22	1	4	17	12	70	-58	7

### *Men 2s – Martin Wollington*

Firstly, the Exec – I have been on Exec for 2 years now and it has been an absolute pleasure. Without Ruth, Paul and TJ this club would struggle, it doesn't get talked about and I feel many are not aware but I do want to express that they never stop, meetings, sorting teams, issues throughout the season, planning the future, the growth of the club, all sorts. So, I would like to say thank you to you three and I hope you all have a well earned rest for a few weeks before summer league begins.

Now for the men twos – I am unsure how you have the pleasure of me again, I handed it over several years ago after doing a 7 year stint, with no intention of doing it again. However, I have had the pleasure of guiding the team to another season of safety. Here are some interesting stats I would like to share with you from the team:

- 39 different players play for the twos across the season (8 of which were U18)
- 15 different goal scorers
- 10 players who have received at least 1 green card
- 5 players who have received at least 1 yellow card
- Youngest player being 15
- Oldest player being 46
- Most appearances go to Ben Maskrey

This team has had a lot of changes throughout the season but they have turned up every week to play and give it their best. Gareth and I have been liaising about what to say and he asked me to pass on the following. I'd firstly like to thank all the players who have represented the 2s this season. It's been a challenging season and well done to each and every one of you for putting in a shift week in, week out. We've seen some players really develop over the course of the season and I ask you to continue the hard work, it'll be worth it! Secondly, I'd like to thank the parents for your support and of course the inevitable taxi service to help us get a team out each week. Notable mention goes out to the Baileys for your weekly support and also maintaining the 'rate the tea' scoreboard for all the



away fixtures. We eagerly await the verdict of the best teas in the league! Big thank you goes to the Exec committee, umpires, coaches and all the volunteers at the club. Without you, quite simply none of this would be possible so thank you. Finally to Martin, what would I have done without you? Thank you for everything. Not fully knowing what I was letting myself in for, thank you for your help and support. Thank you for being the chief hype man, teller off'r, logistics coordinator and operations manager that really guided the team through a challenging season and led from the front, it's been a privilege!

I feel a typical line used within the twos was 'do not go through them as they will take the ball off you', was used most weeks and ignored most weeks. Another classic line used by me was respect the umpires as they are doing us a favour and helping us out. This typically stands out for me as a home game I said before the game 'if anyone gets carded for descent then the umpires are sending the captain off (me) then they are paying for my match fee', well 10 min in I get sent off for descent! DOH! The team thought this was very comical and as expected voted me the DOTD and asked if it meant I was paying for all their match fees?! I don't think so.

The team have been great and we have seen the development of a few youngsters within the squad bringing our average age right down with the likes of Sam, Ed, Ben, Harry, James, Ashton, Oli, Monty and Theo. These lads are very important for the future of Poole Hockey Club and I hope they have enjoyed the season with the twos and look forward to the future with the club and if they go to Uni, I hope they return.

Now many of you don't know but before the season starts I send out a message to all the contacts I have in my phone from hockey players that have played for the club over the years who we may not have seen for a while, this sometimes works and definitely did this year with welcoming back Tim, Steve, Pierre and Perry. Tim and Steve have been crucial to the twos this season, being regulars in the team and starters within the team. Tim getting 8 goals in his season return. We had a new face to the club being Stephen Riley, He played for the twos all of 4 games! I tried the classic of telling the ones he was no good to try and keep him as long as possible but he kept on turning up to training and basically proving I was talking rubbish. He has been a first name on the team sheet for the ones and has jumped straight into coaching also, you are already part of the Poole Hockey Club family and we hope you stick around for long hall.

Now on to the older generation within the team, without players being available every week we would struggle to field teams and putting out good performances. I would like to say a thank you to Dan Potts, Vinny, Gareth, Michael and others, without you all the younger generation would not have players to learn from and would not know how not to play hockey. No I am joking, you guys have been great and I am so grateful to have the support of you all within the team. A little stat is Pottsy was the player with the 3<sup>rd</sup> most appearances within the team and considering everything he has gone through that is incredible, thank you mate! Unlike your sidekick Alex! What a slacker!

Before I round up I would like to say a thank you to the parents of the youngsters who drive the kids to the games, bring them to training, who do so much for us, but there is 1 in particular I would like to give a special mention to, I am sure you will not be surprised as he likes all social media posts, he takes the registers for the club, he sends out the emails to the opposing teams, he organises teas for us to eat and of course I am talking about Trevor Bailey, thank you for coming to every game, showing and shouting your support to the point that Julia Bailey now stands away from you or at Basingstoke was the other side of the pitch. You are the definition of a LEGEND! The season would not have been the same without you. Thank you!

Now to round things up, next season with a more consistent team and a couple objectives from the off, it will put us in good stead for the year. Thank you men twos, for another year! Here's to many more with growth and hopefully another cheeky promotion before I hang up the stick.

South Central Men's Division 4 South								
Team Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Winchester 3	22	14	3	5	83	51	32	45
Weymouth 1	22	13	4	5	74	45	29	43
Alton 2	22	13	3	6	64	44	20	42
Trojans 4	22	12	5	5	74	52	22	41
Bournemouth M4	22	11	5	6	63	36	27	37
New Forest	22	12	2	8	65	48	17	37
Romsey 2	22	7	8	7	54	60	-6	29
Chichester Friars	22	9	1	12	80	79	1	28
Basingstoke 3	22	7	2	13	50	64	-14	23
Salisbury 3	22	5	6	11	30	53	-23	21
Poole 2	22	5	2	15	54	83	-29	17
Southampton 2	22	3	1	18	32	108	-76	10

### Women 2s – MP Cottam

What can we say, an amazing season from start to finish? The return of the women 2s and what a season it has been. We've gone from having 9 players and no goalkeeper to a team of around 17 and 2 fabulous goalkeepers (well 1 is only allowed to be a sub if the other decides to go on holiday!). Our first game of the season a friendly against Portsmouth, which took 3.5 hrs to get there and was about 33 degrees outside we enjoyed the water pitch that day! From then on, lead by our then captain Ruth, the team started to grow. Then I stupidly self-proclaimed myself the VC and then ended up taking over the reigns from her, little did I know the admin involved but also how much I would enjoy the role. We've had some new additions and some returners to the team along the way and the younger players in our team don't just concentrate on hockey they have many other talents:

- Lola – County Cricket, Poole lifeguards and young writers workshops.
- Kayla – England rugby development, Gold DoE and tutoring maths & English (gave up Rugby for Hockey).
- Isabella – Girl Guides, Loves Spanish animals has dog called Senor Bo and a cat Senor Tod, is an amazing artist.
- Pippa – Silver DoE, Scout young leaders, lifeguard training, Swimming, plays the trumpet and also has been in the school musical.
- Blossom – Swimming, swimming and more swimming, Surf lifesaving club, competes in both. Also tennis and skiing.
- Lenny – Sailing mad! Both competed and won Commodores challenge at Christmas, Lucy is an assistant sailing instructor and they are both learning to sail a Hobie catamaran (practising hockey in the dark with head torches).
- Abi – Competitive swimming (3 silvers and 3 bronze last comp), keen reader, has a passion for drama (who knew), has directed and produced a school production, loves history and as great knowledge for quizzes!

Also huge thank you to the "Grown Ups" in the team Lisa, Emma, Rachel, Heather, Em, Kirsty and Janet! I would also like to thank some lovelies in the women 1s team who have helped us out this season, without you some of our games would have been even more challenging or not playable at all.

We would like to thank our loyal supporters too this season, the cheers from the sidelines have helped every game and being around for the injuries, TJ & Casey for helping coach at some of our games, saved my lungs a bit! Thank you to Martin, Casey, Steve and Lloyd for all your help at

coaching, and to Ali for GK coaching with Emma. Obviously without saying thanks the exec team and all other volunteers who take a lot of time to keep the club going. Personal thanks to Ruth also for the support throughout the season.

Now to finish off, I asked the team for the best injury, best memory from the season and funniest moment of the season, so here they are:

### **Best Injury**

Pippa's ball to the face leaving a lovely black eye and imprint, My nails, Pippa's multiple knee injuries, Abi's knee and the tears, Lucy giving Lola concussion, Rachel's toe from indoor where I told her not to get hurt, Immi falling over.

### **Funniest Moment**

Rachel & Zoe wig sketch, Janet turning up late in the wrong kit after her march, the match reports, Rachel just being Rachel (especially sticking up for the younger ones), Janet being Janet, Rachel's toilet stop, MP green cards(!!!), MP subbing herself because of the umpires and the way she shouted at Casey to get her off the pitch, MPs driving, The great flood(!), Abi being dramatic.

### **Favourite Memories**

Our first win, the friendships made, being part of a great team and being positive no matter what the score, the return of the Russells, team socials, being in goal and having to defend a P flick with no idea what was going on, Janet.

Just to close it's been a great season with so many happy memories and here is to next year!!

South Central Women's Division 2 Forest								
Team Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Salisbury 4	22	19	2	1	87	18	69	59
Wimborne Wayfarers 3	22	17	1	4	85	22	63	52
Southampton 4	22	16	0	6	80	26	54	48
Salisbury 5	22	13	3	6	76	35	41	42
Bournemouth W5	22	12	3	7	56	38	18	39
Southampton University 3	22	11	0	11	30	55	-25	33
Trojans 5	22	9	2	11	36	40	-4	29
Eastleigh Ladies 2	22	8	3	11	32	44	-12	27
Swanage & Wareham 2	22	5	5	12	36	68	-32	20
Romsey 4	22	5	2	15	30	66	-36	17
Poole 2 Development	22	5	1	16	21	96	-75	16
Southampton 5	22	0	2	20	12	73	-61	2

### *Men 3s / Dolphins – Richard Evetts*

So the 3s season. When I was asked to run the 3s team I must admit I was worried, firstly would I be capable and secondly would I be accepted by the other players. Thankfully the team are friendly and accepting, they have to be as this is where the junior players have their first experience playing in a senior team, also where new adult players are given the chance to play. This is where the 3s excel, we have core players who have been with the club for several years, the support and encouragement shown to the new players is frankly awesome. This is where we see talent nurtured and grow so that they can go onto play for the higher teams. Within the 3s there is a good close team spirit.

So the season. If looking in from the outside it could be seen as disappointing, two wins one draw and at one stage in negative points. This is where I have to say the 3s come into their own. They turn



up each week with a positivity that's infectious, and whatever the score they never let their heads go down. As I said before we have several core players, and to those I'd like to thank, it is obviously frustrating for them, not to be able to get a run of results. They come back each week, and make up the backbone of the team.

What you will see though weekly is glimpses of real skill. Thomas Dickinson, fearless in tackles, holding off players when in possession and then passing on successfully. James Isaacs when first joining the team was apprehensive, but now has improved and found confidence. William Potter, a vocal member of the team getting stuck in at every opportunity. Zach Stainer Reid a very skilful player and one to watch out for in the future. Ashton Phillips playing with a high skill level and now finding his feet in the 2s. Sam Tomlinson, playing in defence, fearless in his tackles and a cool headed approach to playing out from the back, now playing 2s regularly. Theo Harle and Harry Izod both going on driving runs, taking play past players and creating scoring opportunities. Both Harry and Theo now playing regularly for the 2s. Monty Munro very much our saviour in many a game, his keeping skills given a thorough work out, Monty too playing for the higher teams. Then there's Oliver Kent, George Cusack, Jon Lane and Adam Roberts all new to the game, adult players. Bags of enthusiasm and improving with every game.

Just a quick mention to a few of our senior players Dan Dickens, Tobias Snow and Tommy Pocknell, all players who could play for higher teams, their influence and positivity within the 3s is amazing and I thank them for sticking with us, and the support and encouragement they show each week. There are several core players and to them I am eternally grateful, for their help over the season. Thanks too should be given to players we've had to draft from outside the club, giving us a helping hand when we have been short on numbers.

So what to next season?? There will be an influx of junior players, our job to encourage and nurture their skills, and to bring them into the senior teams. Welcome new players to the club bring them into a team environment and help to improve skill levels. The 3s being the platform to the higher teams. If we keep the positivity, the belief, the determination, more results will come.

Having run the 3s for a season it has opened my eyes to how hard the people who run the club work. Giving up hours a week to keep Poole Hockey Club an outstanding friendly club. I won't go through the names in fear of missing one out, but needless to say we owe them a bucket of gratitude. Finally, thank you for the honour of giving me the opportunity to run the 3s. Looking forward to the next season.

South Central Men's Division 1 Forest								
Team Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Andover 3	24	19	3	2	83	18	65	60
Southampton Otters	24	19	1	4	68	19	49	58
Romsey 3	24	16	2	6	69	29	40	50
Bournemouth M5	24	14	3	7	53	33	20	44
Winchester 5	24	10	8	6	59	42	17	38
Swanage & Wareham 2	24	10	4	10	58	50	8	33
Eastleigh	24	10	3	11	50	55	-5	33
New Forest 2	24	9	5	10	45	52	-7	32
Salisbury 4	24	9	0	15	49	51	-2	27
Southampton University 5	24	8	2	14	46	76	-30	26
Southampton 3	24	6	2	16	50	72	-22	20
Romsey Renegades	24	6	2	16	23	65	-42	18
Poole 3	24	2	1	21	20	111	-91	6



### *Mixed – Paul Fletcher*

Having decided to re-enter the mixed cup after the success of last season, we still entered with no expectations but fun and playing with hangers, this, as expected, was achieved.

First round at home, we welcomed our Dorset neighbours Wimborne, who against all spirit of mixed turned up bright eyed bushy tailed and were warming up. My recollection of the game is slightly different to the actual result, we seemed to batter them all over the pitch, however the result says 4-3. Now not to say the visiting umpire has a history of making the last 10 minutes interesting, and maybe favoured for the ones in green, but he does, and perhaps this helped sharpen the score line a tad. Just maybe. Anyway through to the next round again!

Round two and home draw again, this time Romsey travelled to the coast, with a familiar face in tow, a supposed good keeper we are told. Well, they were dispatched with aplomb, 4-1. A feat more impressive that this was played post Xmas party and someone's birthday, so you can imagine the array of states across the pitch. For context, it was only after the game when someone told me did I know I had paid the pilot £130 for pizza.

Round three and we were drawn Exeter, much to TJ's delight however this was at home! Now not to say they didn't get the memo about mixed but a very keen and not so blurry eyed team met us at the sandpit. They were very keen, very well drilled and in fairness a very good team, we were beaten and bowed out one round earlier than last year, 6-2. Well done Exeter!

Thanks to all members who participated in any of the games, as always the mixed team has been great fun and hope to see you all again next season!

## 4. Ashdown Leisure Centre Update

The Everyone Active contract for running the leisure centres in Poole (Ashdown, Rossmore and Poole Dolphin) ends 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and will be run by BCP Council from 1st Oct.

England Hockey have recommended that a [Community Use Agreement](#) is put in place between Poole Hockey Club and BCP Council, which will improve the relationship and give us more ownership (i.e. all the things we've requested in the past).

It is hoped that new lights will be installed in the coming winter, before the end of the year. Request for funding is currently going through the Council's processes. This has been highlighted as urgent (for the athletics track also).

Approx £0.25mill is needed for pitch resurface (including shock pad), the Council has no funding so this will need to be funded from multiple sources e.g. grant applications, club fundraising etc. [Crowdfunding is available which Sport England match fund](#), up to £10,000 (i.e. anything we raise Sport England will contribute the same).

This all needs further discussion and consideration but if we, as a club, are not instrumental in acquiring funding we'll never get a new pitch. With all this in mind, I am making the following recommendations:

- Work with BCP Council to enter into a Community Use Agreement.
- Create a fundraising working group for pitch resurfacing and include on every AGM agenda going forward until we have a new pitch.

## 5. Proposed constitution amends (two thirds majority required)

### First amendment, change of wording

- 3.3. Vice Presidents; Members who have provided long-standing service to the club may be appointed as Vice Presidents (VPs) through Management Committee member nominations and election by members at the AGM. Current club members may propose individuals to be considered and, if felt suitable, nominated by the Management Committee. Once elected VPs shall remain in office until their removal at a General Meeting. VPs are not entitled to the privileges of membership and if deemed to be “inactive” for over five-two years (no or minimal contact with the Club), they ~~will~~may be removed, on the recommendation of the outgoing Club President.
- 3.4. Life Members; ~~Members~~Vice Presidents who have provided exceptional service to the club may be appointed as Life Members through Management Committee nominations and election by members at the AGM. Life members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership.

### Second amendment, additional point

- 4.3. Elected officers are prohibited from holding any other voluntary role within the club, excluding coaching and umpiring. Only in exceptional circumstances and with approval from the Management Committee would this be allowable e.g. to allow setting up a new team as an interim measure.**

### Third amendment, change of wording

- 5.1. The Management Committee may appoint paid part-time staff for specific ~~coach~~ development projects. Such projects are at the complete discretion of the Management Committee however they must be PHC projects.
- 5.1-5.2. Individuals with specialist skill, knowledge or expertise bought in for specific and defined work, are not regarded as staff.
- ~~5.2. The appointment of any and every paid member of staff must be reviewed and confirmed at each AGM of PHC.~~

\_\_\_\_\_ voting by show of hands, all in favour \_\_\_\_\_

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**Season 2023/24 closed. Meeting passed to Martin Wollington (current club secretary) to commence season 2024/25.**

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## 1. Election of Honorary Club President (two thirds majority required)

Martin Wollington proposed Adrian Potter for Club President. Seconded by Mike Hampton

## 2. Election of Honorary Members (two thirds majority required)

The current list of Life Members and Vice Presidents:

Life Members	Vice Presidents
1. Debbie Chase	9. Nick Fisher
2. Andy Collyer	10. Steve Costello
3. Tom Darlington	11. Trevor Dyson

4. Gail Nutall	12. Teresa Morris
5. Adrian Potter	13. Graham Heron
6. Peter Webb	14. Victor Martin
7. Mike Hampton	15. Heather King
8. Terry Harding	16. Paul Roberts
	17. Carl Tantum
	18. Darryl Vincent
	19. George Yoxall
	20. Tanya Read
	21. Alex Warren
	22. Brian Pitman
	23. Bob Wickens
	24. Duncan Kirwin
	25. AJ Windsor

The following proposals have been received for Vice Presidents:

- Alastair King – proposed by Deb Chase
- Martin Wollington – proposed by Mike Hampton
- Casey Fudge – proposed by Mike Hampton
- Dan Potts – proposed by Martin Wollington and Paul Fletcher
- Thalia Galloway – proposed by Ruth Wharton

All approved.

### 3. Election of Executive Management Committee (simple majority required)

#### *Chairperson*

Ruth Wharton proposed by Adrian Potter and seconded by Thalia Galloway, and elected unopposed.

#### *Vice Chairperson*

Paul Fletcher proposed by Thalia Galloway, seconded by Mike Hampton, and elected unopposed.

#### *Treasurer*

Thalia Galloway proposed by MP Cottam, seconded by Rich Evetts, and elected unopposed.

#### *Secretary*

Trevor Bailey proposed by Martin Wollington, seconded by MP Cottam, and elected unopposed.

### 4. 2024/25 Subscriptions & Match Fees

#### *Senior Match Fees*

£9.50 for all seniors / £6.50 for all others / enhanced match fee +£4.50

#### *Junior Match Fees (U14 / U12 / U10)*

£3.50

#### *Membership Fees*

Senior (full time employment)	£130
Family*	£185
Concession / Social	£80



\*Family Membership must include at least one under 16

We believe compared to all other Hockey Clubs in the area this is still one of the best value.

Thalia Galloway proposed and Dan Potts seconded the motion to accept these fees.

## 5. Dates for your diary (TBC and added to Teamo)

Tues 30th April	First senior summer league fixture
Tues 7th May	Summer junior and U18 coaching sessions (10wks)
Sat 13th July	Club Hockey Fest event at Talbot Heath School
Sat 31st Aug	Senior club day and start of season social
Tues 3rd Sept	First senior coaching session
Sat 7th sept	Senior friendly matches
Tues 10th Sept	First Tuesday junior coaching session
Sat 14th Sept	Senior friendly matches
Sat 21st Sept	First senior league matches & Sat junior coaching
Sun 13th Oct	Run Bournemouth marshalling
Sat 14th Dec	Xmas club social (possibly including inter club games)
Sat 26th April '25	Senior EOS awards and celebration event
Sat 3rd May '25	Junior EOS awards and celebration event & AGM

## 6. Chairperson's closing statement

When considering my closing statement for this AGM I looked back at last year's, much of which remains the same. So, thank you for voting me to remain as the Club's Chairperson, it's a real honour to take on the role and be part of a brilliant team with Paul, TJ and the new addition of Trevor, with the support of Adrian.

I'd like to thank Martin for his involvement as Club Secretary over the last couple of seasons. Martin has been a valued member of the Executive Management Committee and has provided valued input into the management of the club, respectfully challenging decisions to achieve the best for the club's members. Thank you Martin.

Over the next season we will continue to work to achieve more growth within the club at junior and senior level. We hope to work with the Council, Ashdown and the local schools for more pitch time. We want this next season to be as good if not better and we all need to be pulling together to enable this. There are a few small things you can all do to help:

- Update Teamo with your availability a week in advance of matches.
- Pay your membership and match fees on time (anyone with outstanding debts from 2023/24 will not be invited to play any match, including summer league, until these are cleared. If this applies to you, please do speak to us so we can sort a plan together).
- Join your team for teas after matches, this is an important part of being part of the team.
- Attend coaching on a regular basis.
- Get involved and help the club where you can.
- Help promote and celebrate the club.
- Get social and join in with club and team events.
- Use [the EasyFundraising app](#) when you are buying online, the club receives a financial contribution.



Please remember this is your club and as a member of the club you can have just as much influence on the running of as anyone. So please, if you feel something is / isn't working then please do tell us and let us know if you have an idea for improvements.

Thank you to everyone who completed the annual senior coaching survey. We do this so we can measure where we are and see how we can improve so please do submit a response when asked.

Looking forward there are a few areas we hope to progress in over the next season:

- Actioning the [recommendations from season 2023/24 \(outlined above\)](#).
- Input from England Hockey to update and introduce new coaching ideas.
- Broaden the variety of hockey we offer e.g. walking hockey sessions.
- Increase junior numbers, more work in schools.
- More social events.
- Reaccreditation of our ClubMark.
- Umpire development.
- Increase number of advanced coaches (UKCC Hockey Coach Course, old level 2 equivalent).
- Improving our relationship with the Canford Heath community to strengthen and broaden our reach.

Going forward we need more help and input from our members so we will be asking you to get involved, starting with, we need as many as you can on the 13<sup>th</sup> October to help us marshal at Run Bournemouth. This is an excellent opportunity as we receive approx. £1,000 for our help which will be put back into the club to help keep membership and match fees as low as possible. Please do help, the more people involved the less demand on everyone, even if you're only able to offer an hour – this would be hugely welcomed!

The club is only as good as you make it so, please do get involved.

## 7. AOB

*How does the club intend to tackle worsening on pitch discipline / behavioural Issues?*

The new [Club Behaviour Guidelines](#) provide a process for handling any discipline / behaviour issues which arise. If there are specific issues you're aware of please do report them to a suitable person. To quote from the guidelines:

*'If you see/hear behaviour that doesn't meet your expectations, we encourage you to call it out. If you feel uncomfortable doing so, please speak to a suitable person.'*

It is preferable that issues do not occur in the first place and therefore further work is needed to communicate and embed these guidelines across the club with the aim of preventing issues occurring and creating a supportive and nurturing environment in which everyone thrives; this is the environment we aim to create at the club. With this in mind, we will work with all Club Officers to spread this message which we hope in turn will embed a positive culture within the club. Getting more people involved will help spread this message.

*How does the club intend to develop its coaching programme and ensure teams have coaches that can coach at an appropriate level respective of their league? Furthermore, ensure young players are developing appropriately?*

As outlined in the [recommendations from season 2023/24](#), we will consider club budgets with the intention of sourcing and allocating additional funds to developing the club's coaching offer. Plus the creation of guideline documents to clarify club expectations from coaches, related to the team's playing level.

We are always looking for suitably qualified and experienced coaches to lead our 1s squads and will continue to do so. This is challenging and we know other clubs also struggle with this. We have previously advertised for coaches on the [England Hockey website](#) (this is how we gained contact with Jon Royce, who we remain in contact with), and plan to do this again over the summer.

*How is the club going to better manage issues surrounding player selection?*

As outlined in the [recommendations from season 2023/24](#), we will create guideline documents to clarify club expectations, to cover and provide information about:

- Selection
- Playing
- Forfeiting a match
- Coaching (dependant on the team standard)

We aim to prepare these over the summer so they are in place and ready for September.

*What is the club's strategy / plan to make itself attractive to new players / retain its existing players?*

The club has a [Development Strategy and Action Plan](#) which outlines the club's current status and actions for developing with the aim of progressing and growing the club. We regularly review and update this document and aim to do so again over the summer.

We do as much as we can on social media to promote and advertise the club but we are limited as we do not currently have a person leading on the club's communications and there are just a handful of people doing it on the side of other roles. We really do need someone to take the lead with this and so are looking for volunteers to help.

Word of mouth is a really good way of attracting new and retaining players, we're often contacted by prospective members saying they are looking for a social club and that's why they have approached us. We want to ensure this remains and we encourage all members to get involved socially; we believe this is the foundations of what makes PHC such a brilliant club to be part of.

*How is the club going to better advertise its roles / responsibilities / elected contacts?*

Ideas very much welcomed. We do as much as we can but it's challenging getting the message out and more people involved. For those attending the AGM or reading these minutes it might feel like we're preaching to the converted, so our ask of you is to spread the word. We're always looking for ways to inform our club members and we encourage more participation with the running of the club. Please do get involved. We'll continue to ask ourselves how we can be more visible to the Club's members and will ask this at every management committee meeting. It is aimed that these meetings are held at least every other month throughout the main season (September – April). Please feel welcome to approach any club volunteer to ask what they do and how you might get involved.

*Comment from Sarah Badley, the Club's Welfare Officer*

A reminder that when a head injury occurs it's vital that this is reported to Sarah straight away. There's a [new incident report form](#) on the club's website, this should be filled in for all injuries and emailed to [welfare@poolehockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:welfare@poolehockeyclub.co.uk). As a general rule of thumb, if an injury requires the use of any first aid supplies or affects any part of the head (shoulders upwards) a report form must be filled in and submitted. This is important for the individual's safety and welfare but also enables first aid kits to be restocked for the next injury.

Meeting closed by Ruth Wharton and meeting closed at 15:41.