



Staffordshire and Cheshire Korfball Association [SaCKA]

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday 21st June, 2017

1. APOLOGIES AND ATTENDANCE LIST

Jon Allison (Chair, Castle), Lana Baker (Keele), Chris Betteridge (Competitions Officer, Castle) (*from item 3e*), Mike Evans (Castle) (*from item 3g*), James Falvey (Communications Officer, Crewe & Nantwich), Sophie Higgins (Keele), Eleanor Hopkins (Treasurer / Development, Crewe & Nantwich), Ed McCauley (Secretary, Crewe & Nantwich)

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as an accurate record and there were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. REPORTS

The reports from the Chair, Secretary and Communications Officer were circulated in advance and the key points were highlighted at the meeting.

a. Chair

In 2016/17, Aberystwyth University left the SaCKA league and teams from the two clubs in the West Midlands Korfball Association (WMKA) – Birmingham City and the University of Birmingham – joined.

There had been a relatively high turnover of players, with a large number trying the sport for the first time but fewer staying; work would continue to try to improve on this.

There had been challenges at local and Central England level (CEKL) regarding the use of ineligible players.

b. Competitions (*taken after item 3h*)

Castle Dragons won the league, however, the Potteries Cup had not been arranged this year. The walkover for Keele 2 vs Birmingham City 3, which due to the latter fielding ineligible players, as discussed at the previous committee meeting, would be actioned on Fixtures Live by the Chair [**ACTION**].

There had been delays in results being entered onto Fixtures Live this year with the official deadline being within 72 hours of each fixture.

An issue with the incorrect use of the 'guest player' function on Fixtures Live had been clarified by the EKA.

The league's top scorers this season were Alec Ovens (Castle) and Sophie Higgins (Keele). The Most-Valuable-Player would be confirmed by the Competitions Officer [**ACTION**].

Overall, it was positive having more teams in the league this season. There had been some challenges with venue hire and it was decided that it worked better when the venues were booked by SaCKA rather than by individual clubs. It was agreed to revert to this system for next season and source convenient venues.

c. Secretary

Various points of contact had been made with the England Korfball Association (EKA), including a visit as part of their programme of visits to area associations. Responses to the issues raised by SaCKA representatives at the meeting were expected soon.

The EKA's AGM was due to take place on 8th July, however, no information about the items of business due to be discussed at the meeting was yet available.

d. Treasurer (including Budget)

All teams' association fees had been paid, with those from Crewe & Nantwich and the University of Birmingham having been received after the year-end, which was why they were not showing in the report. The payment from Castle included £20 owed from the previous year. The invoice to Keele for £300 worth of lost equipment at the end of March was expected to be settled in the following financial year.

The Accounts showed a profit of approximately £230 for the year. It was necessary to hold reserves in the Accounts to cover the fees paid to the EKA early in the season and any necessity to book match venues or subsidise development courses.

e. Communications

Facebook messenger groups had been used this year for team captains to find replacement players and to support referees, although the latter had been used instead for sorting out refereeing commitments.

The website had been updated with details of the Birmingham teams.

f. Development (including Refereeing, Coaching)

There had been development in the sense of increased competitiveness in the league due to the addition of the new clubs from the West Midlands League.

The Area had not run any refereeing or coaching courses this year. There was interest from Crewe in a refereeing course, however, the minimum number of participants required was not met and therefore a course could not be arranged.

Keele alerted the Committee to the fact that they would be left without any qualified referees next year. A course would therefore need to be arranged and the Keele representatives would provide the Development Officer with the names of those who would take the course in the early part of the season [**ACTION**]. The course costs were dependent on the number of participants but there could be some subsidy available.

No community events were reported to have taken place this year. There had been an attempt to establish a club at MMU Cheshire Campus in Crewe but this appears

not to have been successful, and there is no current prospect of re-establishing a club in Shrewsbury.

- g. Safeguarding
No report was provided due to the absence of the Safeguarding Officer.

It was reported that Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks needs to be updated across the Area. This would be a priority for the next Safeguarding Officer.

- h. Inter-Areas
This position was vacant and the Area did not enter the competition this season.

4. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- a. Seniors Development
Some promotional activities had been undertaken by clubs.

- b. Juniors Development
There was a current lack of activity at Junior level.

- c. Coaches Development
Coaching courses were few and far between and for the Association to host its own at least ten participants were needed.

A request was made by Keele for a coach for next season with the possibility of payment being available.

- d. Referees Development
This had been covered under the Development item (3f).

5. MEMBERSHIP FEES 2017/18

It was proposed and agreed to maintain the membership fees for clubs at the same level next season of £50 per team. This is the fee to enter a team in the league. Half-fees would be charged to any additional team entering the league after Christmas.

With the change back to central venue booking, the cost of bookings would be calculated on the basis of the venue hire divided by the number of games to be played.

6. PROPOSED CHANGES TO *(standing item)*:

- a. Constitution
No changes were made to the Constitution.

- b. League rules / structure
- Rule 1 ('League Entry') would be amended to remove the specified fee and state instead that the fee would be set by SaCKA.
 - Rule 4 under 'Player Eligibility' was reviewed in detail, as it was thought to be confusing. First of all, the rule needed to reflect in references to the use of players from higher levels the promotion of Birmingham City to the National League. Additionally, the 'SaCKA or CEKL squad' reference would be changed to 'SaCKA or Lower Regional League'. The paragraph would be reordered so that references to player level would come before references to guest players.

It was noted that the provision of squad lists to the Competitions Officer by all teams needed to be enforced.

- Rule 13: a reference to updating Fixtures Live would be added to the end of the statement regarding the need to submit match forms.
- Rule 16: the reference to rule 18 should be changed to rule 15.

The Chair would update the League rules document, as discussed, and circulate this to committee members [**ACTION**].

7. REPORTS

The following members were elected to positions on the Executive Committee for the 2017/18 season:

Chair: Jon Allison (re-elected)

Competitions: Chris Betteridge (re-elected)

Secretary: Ed McCauley (re-elected)

Treasurer: Eleanor Hopkins (re-elected)

Communications: James Falvey (re-elected)

Development (incl Refereeing, Coaching): Eleanor Hopkins (Interim*)

Safeguarding: James Falvey

Inter-Areas: Position left vacant

* a message would be sent around clubs to see if anyone would be interested in taking on the Development Office position with a deadline for responses of 8th July 2017.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was clarified that Keele have an open invitation to send a representative to SaCKA committee meetings. The Chair suggested that Keele Two were the team of the year.