



Staffordshire and Cheshire Korfball Association [SaCKA]

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Monday 21st May, 2018

1. APOLOGIES AND ATTENDANCE LIST

In attendance: Jon Allison (Chair, Castle), Chris Betteridge (Competitions Officer, Castle), James Falvey (Communications Officer, Crewe & Nantwich), Dan Gooding (Castle), Eleanor Hopkins (Treasurer / Development Officer, Crewe & Nantwich), Ed McCauley (Secretary, Crewe & Nantwich), Dave Webb (representing Keele) and Rob Wright (Castle).

Apologies were received from Lana Baker (Keele).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as an accurate record.

3. REPORTS

a. Chair

The focus of England Korfball (EK) appeared to be on the national league finals and there was a missed opportunity for nationwide development. Communications with EK had been quiet recently, although there was reported interest from EK via the Central England Korfball League (CEKL) in how area associations were operating local rules.

Recruitment was of paramount importance with retention of players a particular challenge.

The Chair thanked all committee members for their contributions during the year.

b. Competitions

Castle Dragons won a league and Potteries Cup double in 2017/18. The top scorers in the league were Nico Wong (Keele) and Stacey Swarbrick (Castle) and a number of Most-Valuable Player nominations were recorded. It was agreed that an announcement of the top scorers would be made on the website [**ACTION:** Communications Officer].

There had been some issues with fixtures rearranged due to the weather conditions and delays in uploading match information to Fixtures Live. Keele didn't have all their players registered prior to the first match of the season. Player eligibility was a recurring issue raised by a number of teams and proposals were to be discussed later on the agenda.

c. Secretary

A summary of the meetings of the Exec Committee was given. This included a visit from the EK National Development Officer in January where feedback was given and it was hoped that communications with EK would continue to improve.

The MGV games had been booked centrally this year and the Market Drayton venue was successful in terms of location and cost.

In respect of the EK AGM, it was noted that the Area Association abstained on the proposed fees due to the disproportionate amounts charged to smaller clubs and associations.

- d. Treasurer (including Projected Budget and Membership fees for 2018/19)
Pending receipt of a bank statement the accounts had been settled for the year, showing a modest profit.

The budget for the forthcoming year was dependent upon the number of teams entered in the league. There was a development pot for attending courses factored-in to the budget, which had not been used in recent years; however, this year it was proposed and agreed to purchase plastic korfs in order to supply local schools with equipment.

- e. Development
No coaching or refereeing courses had been held due to a lack of interest, with a minimum of 10 participants needed. It was suggested to gather interest over the summer to potentially run a course at the start of the season. There was a refereeing course taking place in Birmingham in early June.

The emergence of a club at MMU Cheshire Campus had stalled and there appeared to be no activity there now.

It remained to be seen whether the University of Birmingham would continue to enter a team in the league next season.

- f. Safeguarding and Communications
In respect of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, most had been completed at Crewe and a check had been done also for the Coach of Keele. There was no sign that the checks for relevant people at Castle had been progressed and the next committee would need to look into this.

The website had been updated with committee minutes during the year.

4. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Shot clock training had been completed at Castle, which may in future be useful to SaCKA if shot clocks are introduced at local level. There were also some items related to schools development that could now be closed and an updated version of the Plan would be submitted by the Development Officer [**ACTION**].

It was confirmed that funds existed for development activities in the area.

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

- a. Constitution
Two amendments were proposed and approved:
- Section 5.4: an amendment to the sentence stating the number of meetings of the Executive Committee to 'shall meet three or more times each year'.

- Section 6.1.2: to change 'SaCKA' to 'CEKL' in respect of representing the Area Association.

b. League rules / structure

Amendments to the current rules were discussed and approved, as follows:

- Rule 3: to remove 'BSKA for student teams', as this was redundant in the context of registering players.
- Rule 12: the practice of allowing 'rolling subs' would be introduced with a maximum of eight changes permitted per match. Substitutions could only be made during a break in play.
- An additional clause was needed for time-outs, as this was not currently covered in the rules. Two time-outs lasting one minute per team were permitted, which could not be taken consecutively, plus an additional time-out at the referee's discretion (e.g. for an injury).
- Rule 18: to add a statement to the effect that issues with the standard of refereeing should be referred to the Executive Committee.

The Committee discussed the issue of player eligibility, referencing rule 4 in the current rules. Two separate proposals had been received in advance of the meeting: one which required squad lists to be submitted for all teams across all leagues and, in the event that a club could not field a team, a match squad list to be submitted to the Competitions Officer and opposition captain in advance for agreement; the other which placed restrictions on availability based on the numbers of appearances a player had made for a higher team.

The latter proposal was approved by the Committee. It meant that if a player had played for a higher team a specified number of times (1 out of 2; 2 out of 3; 2 out of 4; and 3 out of 5) then they would be ineligible for the lower ranked team. It was agreed that there should be no restriction on the first match of the season.

The penalty for infringing this rule was discussed and it was agreed that the penalty would be determined by the Executive Committee before the start of the season [**ACTION**].

A review of the new rules would be undertaken at Christmas.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following members were elected to positions on the Executive Committee for the 2018/19 season:

Chair: Jon Allison (re-elected)

Competitions: Eleanor Hopkins

Secretary: Ed McCauley (re-elected)

Treasurer: *unfilled*

Communications: James Falvey (re-elected)

Development (incl Refereeing, Coaching): Dave Webb

Safeguarding: *unfilled*

Inter-Areas: *unfilled*

Elections for the unfilled positions would be re-run at the first meeting of the year.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT

The importance of respecting referees' decisions was noted and a number of points were made to support this:

- Clubs should make the Area Association aware of any cards given to players at CEKL level;
- Communications with referees during matches should be made via the captain;
- Misbehaviour codes needed to be publicised to referees and captains in order to empower decision-making;
- Issues relating to refereeing needed to be reported to the SaCKA Executive Committee.

A Code of Conduct used by the North-West Association provided an exemplar. It was agreed to produce a version for SaCKA and require all players and those affiliated with clubs at matches to sign it at the start of the season [**ACTION**].

Mentoring was an area that could be explored in terms of providing support to referees. There was currently no network for advice and guidance and the league required a sustainable position on referees in order to operate.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that some unusable posts could be sold as scrap metal.

The introduction of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) was noted. Nothing had yet been circulated on this issue from EK.