



**Avoca Hockey Club AGM  
25th May 2019  
Chaired by Caroline Daly**

**1. Presidents Welcome**

- Caroline Daly welcomed everyone to the inaugural zoom A.G.M. with best attendance to date.
- An exciting year with the men competing in EYHL2 league and the newly established men's 4s showing positive signs of growth.
- Dedicated GK coaching and appointment of a club administrator.
- Huge plans for pitch resurfacing at Newpark put on hold.
- Launch of Development Workshop & 5-year-plan.

**2. Attendance/Apologies**

See attached list

**3. Minutes of AGM 2019**

Proposed by Emer Grogan

Seconded by Emma Meir

**4. Honorary Treasurer's Report – Lisa McCarthy**

See attached report of accounts

- Sandra Boyle queried whether we had lost sponsorship – Lisa McCarthy confirmed that sponsorship had doubled to around €4,000.

**5. Men's Section Report – Ben Geoghegan**

See attached

**6. Ladies' Section Report – Kate Rushe**

See attached

**7. Junior Boys Section Report – Emer Grogan**

See attached

**8. Junior Girls Section Report – Caroline Daly**

See attached

**9. Director of Hockey Report – Jonathan Cole**

See attached

**10. Development Report – Paul Cronin**

See attached

- Carl Breaden asked: “As the Summer is a very important time for player recruitment (and more importantly player retention), when do the club expect to appoint a new DOH, and men’s and ladies’ 1st team coaches? Given that both Ronan and Mark have been here so long there is going to be a major loss in continuity. Who is going to take responsibility for player recruitment in the absence of appointments?” Caroline Daly said that the recruitment for the Director of Hockey is ongoing at the moment, but the club is looking to fill the position within 4-6 weeks. Dennis O’Connor said that the closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> June and that there had been a very strong interest in it and the club could have an appointment by the end of June. He also mentioned that Mike Heskin, who is the Director of Sport at the University of Galway and the former Chief Executive at Hockey Ireland, is offering expert subject matter expertise. Carl Breaden then queried whether the Director of Hockey would be appointed before the 1<sup>st</sup> team coaches. Caroline Daly commented that in relation to the coaches, with news on the possible expansion of the EYHL2, the club is looking to get advertisements out within the next week. No definite answer was given on which appointment would be made first. It is key to get the right person as our Director of Hockey as this is going to impact the whole club. Gavin Dunne asked whether there were any internal candidates for the coaching roles or whether it would only be external? Caroline Daly said that the coaching roles are put out there so that anyone can apply for the roles. Jonathan Cole said that the recruitment of coaches would be discussed at committee before an advertisement goes out. He also mentioned that we have not had a directive from Hockey Ireland as to when hockey is going to start up again. The committee will plan and put things in place and we just have to wait and see. Caroline Daly then confirmed that player retention is key and the club will look to address that.

## 11. Election of Officers

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Treasurer	Lisa McCarthy	Dennis O'Connor	Ben Geoghegan
Secretary	Al Robinson	Caroline Daly	Emer Grogan
Men's Captain	Michael O'Neill	Paul Cronin	Richard Couse
Ladies Captain	Kate Rushe	Richard Couse	Lisa McCarthy
Girls Chair Competitive	Simon Rees	Paul Cronin	Carole Dillon
Girls Chair Non-Competitive	Celine Furey	Paul Cronin	Emer Grogan
Boys Chair	Emer Grogan	Caroline Daly	Lisa McCarthy
Development	Paul Cronin	Emer Grogan	Ben Geoghegan
Director of Hockey	TBC		
Vice-president	Ben Geoghegan	Caroline Daly	Dennis O'Connor
President	Caroline Daly		2 <sup>nd</sup> Year of 2

- Deputy Club Captain roles: Kate Rushe is looking for someone to slot in as a deputy Ladies Captain as she will be stepping down after the forthcoming season. She would be more than happy to show someone what is required to ease the individual into the role. Dave Spencer has agreed to step into the Deputy Men's Captain role and will assist Michael O'Neill before taking on the role in 2 years' time.

## 12. Election of New Members and Pavilion Members

Every player who paid and played for the 2019-20 season is accepted as a new member.

Proposed by Kate Rushe

Seconded by Richard Couse, Lisa McCarthy, Sandra Boyle

Peter Agnew would like to propose 3 new honorary life members: Dick Mallet, Brian Dobson & Roger Dunwoody. Seconded by Carl Breden.

## 13. A.O.B

- Proposals and updates suggested for the Memorandums & Articles to be updated and this will be presented ahead of an EGM which will then be voted on by club membership.
- The club has had 2 governing directors in Peter Agnew & Nigel Kingston; both have served 2 x 3-year terms and in order to function as a board it is necessary to have a full quorum. Caroline Daly proposes that Peter Agnew & Dennis O'Connor be co-opted onto the board to join Caroline Daly, Ben Geoghegan and Lisa McCarthy until the EGM when we have more clarity on the Memorandums & Articles. Paul Cronin seconded. Dennis O'Connor said that as Avoca Hockey Club is such a large club, a full set of accounts should be up on the website for our members to look at along with others from outside the club.
- Dennis O'Connor commended the committee for filling every role on the committee saying it had been some time since there had been a full line-up and it puts us in good stead for the season ahead.

- Aifric O'Malley said that she knew how much work is involved in being on the committee and she just wanted to thank everyone for their work.
- Rachel Maher asked if there were any plans for summer camps in August – the intention is there but cannot confirm yet. Caroline Daly said that it is hoped that hockey would return soon but we were waiting to hear from both Hockey Ireland and Leinster Hockey and access to the pitches is also necessary once the schools reopen. Discussions are ongoing on ways we can start up hockey, but a lot is still uncertain.
- Ben Geoghegan said that it was great to still see so many participants at the end of the zoom A.G.M. and it is hoped that this has been helpful and perhaps this may trigger a way in which our members can contribute in some way.
- Emer O'Shea queried who she should give feedback to if she or others have concerns. Caroline Daly said that normally the Girls Chair is the first contact for any issues or concerns; for any reason this is not suitable, then any of the committee members can be contacted.
- Carl Breaden asked if there was a specific plan for recruitment of boys in the junior section and perhaps an official primary school liaison officer be created as there are two primary schools that train in Newpark. Emer Grogan mentioned that 10 would be leaving stepping up to senior hockey. She also mentioned that a blitz competition for the feeder schools was planned just before Easter; however, the club is looking to do this at the beginning of the year as very few u14s are coming through. Dave Spencer has been doing a fantastic job of getting in a lot of u8s into the club. Fun days are planned, and the committee are keen to hear further ideas on how to get more boys into hockey. Emer noted that it is not just Avoca Hockey Club that is struggling to get boys to play hockey; there is a handful of clubs that have good numbers in their boys' section while the rest struggle. Emer agreed that a liaison officer would be a good solution and is happy to discuss this further.
- A message from one of the ladies' players: 125 -20 vets =105/5 = 21 per squad. Is there enough for a 6th team? Kate Rushe mentioned that a number of them are schoolgirls who are not available in the mornings and some even play till 2pm. It is important not to have teams with just schoolgirls and some ladies have left as they did not want to play with just schoolgirls. Holidays and other things on always mean that there are gaps in the squads. Jonathan Cole mentioned that 90% of that team were schoolgirls and on a Friday night, there was a lot of uncertainty whether their school game would be finished in time. In those 20 games that the ladies 5s played, 39 different players played. The Mums & Chums has raised a lot of interest and it is hoped that this is going to help this issue. Dennis O'Connor also mentioned that the Dads & Lads was essentially moulded from what another hockey club had done, and he is very confident that if we can run the Mums & Chums, then this will help numbers.
- Jay Menelaou mentioned whether the Ball will be given a new date, or would it be cancelled – Caroline Daly said that the date had been pencilled in for September, but we await further government guidance.

- Marcus Pearson asked whether we could return to hockey in any format. Caroline Daly said that according to government guidance it appears that in phase 5 we might be able to return in some format but await official word from Irish Hockey and Leinster Hockey.
- Kate Rushe mentioned that there are lots of sub roles within the committee, social roles, social media roles, etc. If anyone felt an urge to get involved that they should contact the committee.
- Gavin Dunne would like to thank both Mark Cullen and Ronan Hickey for the work they have done during their tenure.

#### **14. Presidents Closing Comments**

Thank you to Dennis O'Connor for facilitating the evening tonight. Fantastic attendance and it is great to have all the input with some very positive feedback. Thank you for all attending.

Thank you to the board who work tirelessly in higher level strategic club matters and there is always work going on in the background. The Committee – stellar work as always; great support as always. Huge support from Ben Geoghegan as Vice President. Thank you to AI for all the help. The dedication from all the coaches is fantastic – sorry to see some of these coaches leaving. Thank you to Jonathan Cole for your input and expertise. Thank you to all the club members who make the club what it is.

It is a very uncertain times, we will endeavour to get players back on pitches as soon as we can dependant on government advice and advice from our governing bodies. Next year is our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and big plans are afoot. It will be great to see what next year will bring.