

**MINUTES OF THE 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF STOOLBALL ENGLAND
HELD VIA ZOOM
ON SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2019 AT 10am**

PRESENT:

Stoolball England Officers: Mrs Kay Price (President), Mr Kelvin Speirs (Chairman, Rules and Umpires), Mrs Anita Broad (Vice-Chair, Research and Education), Mrs Wendy Heal (Secretary), Georgina Harrison (Treasurer), Mrs Genevieve Gordon Thomson (Governance and Legal), Mr Richard Emsley (Membership and DBS), Sophie Dunn (Youth Ambassador Sussex), Meg James (Youth Ambassador West Kent), Lynda Mullins (Welfare), Gwyn Griffith,

Life Members: Mr John Price and Mrs Kay Price

Leagues, Associations and Clubs Represented

Surrey Ladies Stoolball Association: Gwyn Griffith

Mid Division (SCSA): Karen Speirs, Pauline Hurley, Lynda Mullins, Sophie Dunn

Sussex County Umpires Association: Kelvin Speirs

North Division (SCSA): Wendy Heal, Anita Broad, Denise Goldsmith

Chanctonbury: Sally Booker, Geoff Laker

Coastal: Nicole Purkis, Kate Lutman

West Division (SCSA): Kay Price, Melissa Mantle

West Kent: Meg James, Georgie Harrison, Anne Hardwick

Central Division (SCSA): Sonia Halls

Sussex County Stoolball Association: Kay Price, Pauline Hurley

Mid Sussex Mixed League: Richard Emsley, Rick Mason

Vice Presidents: John Pritchett

1. Chairman's welcome

Kelvin welcomed everyone to the meeting

Georgie asked everyone to mute their microphone.

Everyone was asked to put their hand up to speak or send questions through to be answered.

Georgie announced that the meeting was going to be recorded and stored on the Zoom cloud.

Everyone had received a disclaimer; we had not received any objections. Attendees were asked to send a message if they wished the recording to be stopped at any point to Georgie.

The recording started.

2. Apologies for absence

Trevor Parsons

3. Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2019 meeting were agreed unanimously. – **Wendy to sign on behalf of Kelvin.**

4. Matters arising from those minutes

No Matters Arising

5. Chairman's Report

Kelvin presented his report (copy attached).

6. Treasurer's Report:

Georgie presented the balance sheet on the screen.

Items to note:

Sales down due to Covid-19

We do have pink softy balls in stock and a supply of Hunts Amazon and Gray Nicolls hard stoolballs Insurance was eventually reduced to £25 per club. Anita obtained a Covid-19 relief grant of £2749 for the insurance and we passed this onto clubs. We refunded £1015 to clubs who did not require the insurance policy for 2020. The overall loss on the insurance was £270.

Indoor Stoolball run by Richard had broken event.

Grants – we received from Sport England £7590 in 2019 and we have spent £2000 in 2020. This is for the coaching course. We also received £2000 in 2019 from Wealden for Walking Stoolball and Stoolball Leaders course, there is a small balance left from this.

7. Election of Officers:

President:

Existing Post Holder

Kay Price

Chairman:

Kelvin Speirs

Vice-Chair:

Anita Broad

Hon. Treasurer:

Georgie Harrison

Officers:

Richard Emsley, Genevieve Gordon, Sophie Dunn, Megan James, Lynda Mullins, Gwyn Griffith

** the above 5 positions were voted en bloc

Proposed: John Pritchett

Seconded: Rick Mason

Unanimously approved

Hon. Secretary:

Wendy Heal (not standing) No other volunteers have come forward. This position needs to be filled soon. Wendy has agreed to continue for a short time. Everyone was asked to advertise to their clubs.

Wendy has agreed to stay on as an officer,

Proposed: Anita Broad

Seconded: Kay Price

Unanimously approved

**Press and Publicity
Officer**

Vacant

The job would involve writing press releases after events,
Publishing events

8. Election of New Vice Presidents:

Existing Vice-Presidents: Ann Peck, Marion Stanbrook, John Pritchett, Delia Saunders, Brian Johnson, Gwyn Griffith, Richard Emsley, Peter Cheeseman, Jenny Keates, Michael Ledwich, Trevor Parsons, Rick Mason
Proposed: Sally Booker
Seconded: Karen Speirs
Unanimously approved

9. Election of Life Members: Existing Life Members: John and Kay Price

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner: D A Clarke –

Proposed: Georgie Harrison
Seconded: Richard Emsley

11. Open Forum

Covid-19 – Everyone was reminded that at present no indoor stoolball can be played, and once outdoor stoolball begins, we need to be aware of any tiered restrictions if players travel into different counties to play.

Anita suggested that clubs could look at playing on caged outdoor Netball courts, MUGA pitches or tennis courts (if nets removed).

Anita will be looking at using the remaining Wealden Grant on doing some coaching/matches using Crowborough Netball courts in the new year.

Social Media – we have spent time updating and scheduling posts.

Genevieve Gordon was thanked for putting together the new policies and completing the DCMS application. Megan James and Sophie Dunn were thanked for doing the risk assessments.

Anita was thanked for completing the first part of the coaching programme and moving from a 2 day face to face course to an online course.

Melissa expressed her thanks for the road maps and would like the responsibility to continue being given to counties to deal with their own clubs, should they not be adhering to the restrictions.

Kelvin expressed this was Stoolball England's preferred option unless teams continue to not adhere to the Stoolball England rules, or the government restrictions. Melissa commented which could then be against the law.

Melissa asked for playing stoolball on netball courts be promoted to schools, as an additional and perhaps different sport for them to be playing. Schools are not allowing outside organisations to use their facilities at present.

We have been told by some schools that they are not allowed to play stoolball in schools until we are listed on the DCMS back to play list. Which we are pushing hard to get this approval.

It was agreed that we need to do everything we can to get clubs ready for playing next season.

Coaching Programme:

Anita reported that phase 1 has been completed

Initially this was going to be a face to face programme 28/29 March – postponed due to national lockdown to beginning of November, again another lockdown. Decision taken to move to an online course which took place over 2 weekends 7th and 15th November.

The course was to train coaches to be able to deliver a coaching course in a classroom environment. We had 9 coaches on the course, which was made up of a mixture of Stoolballers, owners of coaching companies, and Council activity staff.

No-one from Kent came forward to take part in the course, we did have coaches from East Sussex and Surrey, no-one from West Sussex

Phase 2 – will be a practical coaching session and is planned for the spring with outdoor sessions.

Anita will be applying for another grant for phase 2.

To include coaching cards with QR codes which will link to short videos showing the drills. These would be available to everyone on YouTube.

Sophie Dunn will share the details of a company she uses at school for the videos and links.

Stoolball England V Rounders England Game:

The committee has decided to postpone this until 2022, we felt we needed to concentrate on getting stoolball up and running in 2021

Stoolball England Games:

Dates confirmed U21 and Ladies – Sunday 11th July

Over 50's – Sunday 25th July

Venues to be confirmed – potentially Alford for the over 50's and Ardingly College

These will be the established dates going forward and we would ask all Counties and Leagues to not organise events over these dates.

Insurance:

Richard Emsley is happy to continue organising the insurance, he is moving away from the area, but will do the correspondence remotely with the cheques being sent directly to Georgie.

New Committee Members:

Would like to hear from anyone who would like to come onto the committee or help with community events that are in your area.

AOB and Answers to Questions:

Willingdon Community College have a new sports hall that they will be hiring out to public for indoor stoolball.

Recommend using plastic balls in the caged areas, like the cricket windball. Stoolball England have a supply of these costing £3 each.

We need to think outside of the box, for different ways to enable us to play, and get clubs ready for the 2021 season. Suggest doing some market research to find out what teams need to get up and running again. New teams due to start in 2020 Uckfield and Billingshurst. Chanctonbury are going to message all of their teams in the new year.

The secretary job can be split, please get in touch if you are interested in finding out more information.

Website: Rick Mason has started rebuilding from scratch and the replacement version will be available as soon as possible. The committee thanked Rick for all his work on this.

If anyone is planning an event or would like some help with ideas, please get in touch. We have lots of ideas and formats for running sessions for juniors, which we need to encourage.

We are happy to share events on our social media sites. We schedule posts and would ask for 1 week's notice for posting.

Anita reported that some of the coaches who attended the course found us through social media. It's important that we encourage people to follow us and like our posts, to further the coverage. We have one from Worcester who works with 30 schools in his area, 1 from Dorset and 1 from Derbyshire.

Nicole Purkis -asked to rearrange the fixture between Coastal and Surrey. Gwyn Griffith will be in touch regarding this.

Genevieve Gordon advised that the rules are unlikely to be much different to the ones already in place at present at the beginning of next year. Some sports are not expecting changes until the autumn. We have to adapt, and we cannot know about changes until the government announcements, we also need to allow another couple of days for the finer detail to the announcements before we can start working on and release the Stoolball England ones.

Kelvin closed the meeting and asked everyone to stay safe, and looked forward to seeing everyone next year, when we can return to playing, even if it a revised version of the traditional game.