

Dear Clubs

First may I introduce myself to you, as I'm sure not all of you shall be aware of who I am. My name is Greig Cunningham and I am seeking your votes to become a Member's Elected Director of Scottish Hockey.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the clubs that so far have nominated me for this position, and to those that have already pledged support. It is greatly appreciated, and I will repay this faith by helping to ensure that the voices of all clubs and schools, are heard at a greater level within our sport. In doing so, I hope to be able to provide the membership with a more transparent understanding of the governance of Scottish Hockey, and to open a further channel of communication between the Board, and the membership.

Personally, I've been involved in hockey since around age 10, initially at Kelburne, before moving to Clydesdale, through my playing career I represented West and Scotland at U16 and 18s. I also have my Level 1 coaching certificate, and whilst coaching is something I rarely do, I understand the enjoyment those who make a career out of it must feel as they watch the players they coach develop in their own careers. Latterly I've been a regular umpire at Premiership level, as well as internationally. I obtained my FIH indoor badge in 2018, and I am working towards gaining a similar recognition outdoor.

I have also served on the committee of the West District Umpires Association, and on the West Men's District Committee as discipline convener. I have delivered numerous educational courses and also assessed numerous umpires. I believe that my time on these committees has given me experience that I can take forward on your behalf to a national level.

Away from our sport, I am an Airline Pilot, which has allowed me to develop some highly important skills that are readily transferrable into a Directorship of Scottish Hockey, notably my communication skills and in particular my ability to listen, my problem solving skills and indeed the fact I'm used to working, not just for myself, but for the greater good.

In recent times, it has clearly been a difficult and uncertain time for the sport. I believe that in some circumstances clear guidance and transparency have been missing from those at the top. I am of the belief that there is no benefit to sitting and shouting about this without willingness to put your own name forward. I have no agenda of my own to push, and simply want to see our sport grow from strength to strength in the coming years.

Over the four years of this directorship, we face many challenges, but we also have some significant opportunities to grow our sport. There are opportunities for our performance teams in the coming years, but these cannot be the only focus. We have an opportunity to grow the sport even further at a grassroots level and indeed beyond, to people of all ages, as we move forward into our new post COVID world. We should be seeking to attract new members and communities from our normal catchment areas and beyond, and the Board should be at the forefront of this development. The excellent work done by members in the introduction of ParaHockey to Scotland, is a demonstration of the opportunities out there. It shows that the heart of our sport lies with the Volunteers, and when we all work together, the benefits to our sport and to communities can be limitless.

Our membership is broad and vast in its experience, be that male or female, those at the elite level or those simply playing socially, schools, youth teams, masters teams and in standing for this position I want to work for the entire membership and would encourage the membership to work with me. Between us all we have significant wealth of experience, some of whom currently feel that their voices are not being heard at the top. It is vital that we tap into all the experience we have, and consider the opinions of the entire membership to ensure we grow our sport for the many. I don't feel that there is a requirement for expensive consultations, providing those at the top have open channels of communication, and all parties are willing to work for the benefit of our sport. As we move forward from now, we must ensure together that all voices are heard. Indeed, the best ideas I've been part of for our sport have never come solely from my own ideas, but are generated in consultation with others. We must continue to expand the circle, so the entire membership feels valued in their opinions. This is the only way in which we can ensure that all members, no matter their location, school or club, can reap the benefits of the work we undertake together.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, and I hope that I can count on your support.

In the meantime, if any clubs or trustees have any questions for me prior to the AGM in September, then please do not hesitate to contact me, either through email, or phone call.

Yours in Hockey
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