**Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Annual General Meeting of**

**The Scottish Hockey Union Limited held via Teams on 15 June 2026**

## Attendees

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| Neil Francis – Chair | Board Member |
| Karin Gallacher | Board Member |
| Gareth Tenner | Board Member |
| Kareena Cuthbert | Board Member |
| Balvinder Sagoo | Board Member |
| Mike Burnet | Board Member |
| Simon Clarke | Board Member |
| Emma Douglas-Allan | Board Member |
| Derek Keir | Board Member / CEO |
| Craig Munro | President |
| Alison Lunn | **sport**scotland Partnership Manager |
| Lloyd Sammeroff | Staff |
| Vikki Strachan | Staff |
| Rob Moffat | Staff |
| Paul Elliott | Staff |
| Chris Anderson | Staff |
| Beth Smith | Staff |
| Luke Stone | Staff |
| Neil Allan | Staff |
| Jamie Hogarth | Staff |
| Annis McRitchie | Staff |

## The following clubs also had trustees in attendance:

Aberdeen
Aberdeen Bon Accord
Aberdeen University Women
Ayr
Blairgowrie High School Former Pupils
Boroughmuir Ladies
Clydesdale
Dundee University Women
Dundee Wanderers
Dunfermline Carnegie
Edinburgh University Men
Edinburgh University Women
Erskine Stewart Melville
Eskvale
Falkirk & Linlithgow
Fjordhus Reivers
Giffnock
Glasgow Academicals Ladies
Glasgow High Kelvinside Ladies
Glasgow University Men
Glasgow University Women
Grange Ladies
Grange Men
Granite City Wanderers

Greenock
Grove Menzieshill
Harris Former Pupils
Heriots Trinity
Highland
Hillhead Ladies
Hillhead Men
Inverleith
Kelburne
Kelso
Kinross
Livingston
Madras Hockey Club
Monarchs
Peebles
Perthshire
Rottenrow Bluesox
Stirling University Women
Stirling Wanderers
Strathclyde University Men
Uddingston
Watsonians
Western Wildcats

**Others**

Vishal Marwaha – to be ratified as Board Member

### 1. Welcome

Neil Francis opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and confirmed that we were quorate with over 25 members present.

Apologies were received from Evlyn Raistrick (Heritage group) and David Murray (St Andrews)

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### 2. Approval of Minutes – 2025 AGM

The minutes of the Twenty-Fifth AGM held on 10 June 2025 were approved.

- Proposed by: Philippa Bradshaw (Erskine Stewart Melville HC)
- Seconded by: Gavin Cruickshanks (Grove Menzieshill HC)

Matters Arising: The Chair confirmed that there were no matters arising from the prior meeting and no questions were raised by the membership when given an opportunity to raise any.

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### 3. Annual Report

Derek Keir presented the annual report, highlighting Scottish Hockey's strategic priorities, organisational changes, membership growth, diversity initiatives, funding successes, and policy updates, with contributions from staff.

- Strategic Priorities and Purpose: Derek outlined the organisation's purpose, focusing on working together as a hockey community to shape the sport's future, and detailed the four key strategic priorities: growing participation, competition events, performance, and well-organised hockey enabled by people, profiling, and places.
- Organisational Structure and Staffing: To address capacity challenges, Scottish Hockey recruited three Business Operations Administrators (Beth Smith, Lauren Bealey, Annis McRitchie) and three new Lead Managers (Vikki Strachan, Rob Moffat, Nick Wilson), aiming to improve event delivery and organisational effectiveness.
- Membership Growth and Diversity: Membership increased by 662 to 10,311, a 7% rise, with ongoing efforts to support diversity, including an EDI action plan in partnership with

**sport**scotland, and targeted funding to increase participation from areas of multiple deprivation.

- Funding and Investment: Scottish Hockey secured £50,000 from the **sport**scotland Summer of Sport investment, with allocations for club support, state school engagement, and para hockey, as well as £98,000 in additional investment and further funding applications submitted for club and pathway support.
- Policy and Governance Improvements: The organisation updated several key policies, including equality, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, and financial procedures, and conducted an independent governance audit by BDO, with Rob Moffat leading the resulting action plan.
- Safeguarding and Welfare: Derek reported resolution of previous PVG process challenges, with Michael McDougall as Safeguarding Officer and Beth Smith supporting, encouraging all clubs to finalise affiliation to build a safer sport an ask for clubs and districts to ensure all people in regulated roles have PvGs in place with up-to-date training where appropriate.

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**4. Financial Accounts – Year Ending 31 December 2025**

Neil Francis explained the process for receiving the annual accounts, emphasising Director accountability, transparency, and the opportunity for member engagement, with prior questions addressed in a May session.

- Accounts Presentation: Neil clarified that members are not required to approve the accounts, as this is the responsibility of the directors, but highlighted the importance of transparency and member understanding of financial matters.
- Engagement Session: An engagement session was held in May for members to ask questions about the accounts, with minutes and follow-up answers distributed on 19 May.

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**5. Board and Officer Appointments**

Neil Francis confirmed that in the past year Martin Shepherdson had already stepped down and both Kaz Cuthbert and Karin Gallacher were stepping down as Board Directors and thanked them all for their contributions to the board during their time in office.

The AGM approved the appointment of Vishal Marwaha as a non-executive director, confirmed there were no candidates for vice president, and elected Grace Mulholland as discipline officer, with Lloyd Sammeroff managing the Slido voting process.

- **Non-Executive Director Appointment:** Vishal Marwaha was nominated as non-executive director, introduced themselves, and was approved by member vote via Slido with 42 votes in favour and 1 against.
- **Vice President Vacancy:** No nominations were received for the vice president role; Neil invited members to express interest post-meeting, with Craig available to discuss the role's responsibilities.
- **Discipline Officer Election:** Grace Mulholland was proposed and approved as discipline officer for Scottish Hockey, with 42 votes in favour and 1 against.

Derek Keir also thanked all district presidents and committees as well as officials for support delivering hockey throughout the year adding that Keith Joss and Liz Pettigrew were/ had already stepped down as District Committee president. Derek thanked them for time served and welcomed Paul Bowyer and Greig Cunningham as the new incumbents to East and West Districts.

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**6. Appointment of Auditors**

Members approved the appointment of S&W Group as auditors for Scottish Hockey following a competitive tender process, with Lloyd confirming unanimous support via Slido.

- **Auditor Selection:** Neil Francis explained the competitive tender process for selecting new auditors, proposed S&W Group, and opened the floor for questions (to which there were none) before proceeding to a member vote.
- **Voting Outcome:** Lloyd Sammeroff reported that all 40 votes cast were in favour, confirming S&W Group's appointment as auditors.

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**7. Membership Fees and Future Consultation**

Neil Francis announced that there would be no increase in membership fees for 2026-27, but signalled plans for member consultation on future fees due to rising costs and strategic ambitions.

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**8. Annual Awards Event**

Derek Keir announced the opening of nominations for the Scottish Hockey Annual Awards, with the event scheduled for 3rd September at Tynecastle Stadium in Edinburgh, and information on tickets to be shared soon.

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**9. Open Floor / Questions from the membership**

Barry Cox asked why there was no moment's silence for deceased members in the last year at the start of the meeting. Neil Francis clarified that it was an oversight on his behalf and apologised.

No further questions were raised and the meeting was closed.