

Highland Hockey Club AGM

Friday 21st August 2026

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Apologies

- Present; Chris Smith, Kathryn Cooper, Gavin Allan, Lyndsay Mitchell, Megan Ralph, Heather MacIver, Jay Carson, Kevin Cummings, Phillippa Dowling, Gillian Love, Duncan Ball, Kayleigh Yeudall, Daniel Courts, Stuart Fisk, Carys Johns and Mark Watson.
- Apologies from Gill Laws, Jill Matheson, Jill MacRae, Kara Deakin, Jean Deakin, Donna MacBeath, Aedan MaHone, Isla Prentice, John Marshall, Michelle Smith

2. Minutes from Previous AGM

- There is a Macron store opened at the Caledonia Thistle Football Stadium. We are waiting to hear what kit they will be stocking.
- Minutes approved by Kevin Cummings and Lyndsay Mitchell

3. President's Report

- Many thanks for turning up this evening. The committee really appreciates your support and we are looking forward to sharing what has happened over the past 12 months and the plans for the future.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank every single member of the club who has contributed to another year, but this time I would particularly like to thank the committee who do so much throughout the year to keep the club running, especially with my own unexpected personal circumstances, they have been a huge support - so thank you.
- The SHU continues to use the Sport 80 Site which is being used for all registration of members and a database of everything hockey related. All players need to renew their membership by the end of this month. Huge thanks to Lyndsay for all her work with the site and keeping on our toes with what needs to be done .
- We have completed the affiliation to work with SHU for another year. I really must find out what benefits the accreditation.
- A new SHU website to be introduced which is badly needed.
- Our own website is to be disbanded and new platforms and apps used instead. Lyndsay will update everyone on this shortly
- The head of SHU Derek Keir who is from Nairn has been in contact regularly with me and I met him last year and got the feeling he is going to give us as much support as he can!
- Lyndsay and I have been attending zoom meetings for the north district. They have been a little disorganised in the past, but they

have a new committee in place and they continue to support the club.

- We continue to attend the Inverness Community Sports Hub meetings. There have not been so many meetings recently and in fact the last meeting was in October 2025, but it's good to be a part of this.
- The pitch continues to be a topic of discussion, but the work HLH and the council have done, seems to have helped with the issues with the seagulls. LED lights are now fitted to the floodlights meaning the floodlights costs are less and we can get access to them better. The lights should also work for longer periods and therefore light coverage should be way better. We have also had approval from HLH to put banners on the far side of the pitch, where all the spectators now stand. Jill Matheson is working on getting these produced for the start of the season
- For the start of last season a squad got together to weed the area around the pitch, and many thanks to all for their help with this.
- The use of the changing rooms at the new shinty pavilion has been a brilliant addition and I hope all players and visiting teams agree...the access is through 3 key members of the teams, which could be problematic at times but we can hopefully overcome this. An area for after match teas and refreshments still remains a key part of our match experience and a solution is sought for this
- The sum-up devices continue to be utilised for collecting match fees and this has been a fantastic system.
- The Veo camera will be in use again from the start of the season and hope members, especially coaches continue to find this of benefit.
- The Highland Hockey club calendar is ever expanding. We are playing every day during the season, and hockey was still available for some throughout the summer too. Training sessions for all ages and abilities, school festivals, hosts of various Highland teams, league games, social events, summer league, U18 games and indoor sessions. Walks, nights out, badminton and most recently a trip to Augsburg have all been enjoyed this past year. This has contributed in the club being nominated for the inclusivity award at the upcoming SHU awards night on the 7th Sep and we have 4 members of the club attending this and I am delighted we have once again been rewarded for all the hard work by many within the club
- The trip to Germany probably sums up what the club is all about just now, to get 26 members across to Germany for a week is some feat and honestly Kathryn I have heard nothing but praise and thanks for all your work. I hope we can continue to keep this friendship with Augsburg in the future. I note we appeared in the courier today and this publicity can only help the club

- The annual dinner again proved to be a great success with a different venue and many congratulations to all the award winners. Huge thanks to the organisers for their hard work, especially Kathryn, Mark and Isla.
- Our community integration continues, and the Blood Donation group attends sessions every 3 to 4 months at the hospital and in fact between 10 and 20 members regularly attend. huge thanks and credit to Kev the goalie for continuing to champion and promote this, something I know he is very proud of especially now this has been extended to scottish masters hockey.
- We are still working with Breedon who Fraser Riach works with and are hoping for a defibrillator to be installed at the side of the pitch in the coming weeks which is exciting.
- Many of us were involved with Moy recently with over 30 members volunteering on Friday and Saturday. Numbers attending the event were not great with numbers down on previous years, not surprising considering what happened last year, but hoping the event will continue next year and we will receive some form of donation for our work this year. A huge thanks to Michelle and Graham in particular for their help with organising everything. What was great was how many youth and parents of members who helped, without them we would really have struggled and I would urge more players to make this a priority to help next year, considering they are ultimately the ones who benefit from reduced fees.
- Due to not receiving any money from Moy last year there was a £4,500 gap in our finances which we needed to address. We introduced player sponsorship which seems to have been a huge success and planning to do this again this year. A huge thanks to Mark and the team for social media posts to acknowledge companies and individuals, it has been great.
- Our relationship with Macron will continue this year. The new online shop has been fantastic and our contact with the franchisee is much better.
- We are a club run by volunteers and helpers. A huge thanks to all members who undertake roles without you we could not run this amazing club, but as always, we could do with more assistance and if you would like to volunteer in some way please let me or any of the committee know.
- That's all from me, if you have any questions I would be happy to answer as best I can.

4. Treasurer's Report

- A huge thank you to all of our players who continue to support the club by paying their subscriptions and match fees in full and on time this season.
- We also want to extend our gratitude to our player sponsors for making a real difference.
- While our financial position is not quite as strong as in previous years, we are hopeful that our volunteering efforts at Moy this year will help bridge the gap and strengthen our finances going forward.
- Our '100 Club' continues to run successfully with its own separate bank account. There is £3,584.90 in the '100 Club' account.
- Please note that our main closing balance of £16,457.83—which is down £9,823.33 from last year—does not include the funds in the '100 Club'.
- Through our volunteering at Moy, continued player sponsorships and fundraising, we look forward to improving this balance in the coming year.

5. Playing Committee Report

- In the past season, all 3 senior teams continued to progress in their respective leagues. Unfortunately, no promotions to celebrate but also no relegations to commiserate! All 3 senior teams will be looking to make improvements in the coming season on their previous years positions. The men will be in the Scottish National league, the ladies 1sts in Championship 1 and the ladies 2nds in North League division 2. All sides will also enter cup competitions and will hope to progress further than last year.
- Regarding the men's fixtures, the club noted the lack of fixtures for the Men in the second half of last season due to teams not travelling to Inverness post fixture split. This has been raised with SHU. They are currently looking into the format of the men's National League as it lost another team for the forthcoming season. We are awaiting to hear the outcome of this, and I will update members and the committee in due course.
- Men's 1st have had a coaching change. Andy MacBeath has stepped down as their coach, but I am delighted to say that David Cooper has agreed to take over the reins. The club will support not just David, but all coaches in the forthcoming season. There are no other coaching changes to report so Stuart Fisk will continue as the ladies' 1sts coach, Michelle Smith will continue as ladies 2nd's coach alongside her lead coach role for the Sunday juniors. A combination of Chris Smith and Aedan Mahon will continue to lead Youth Academy on a Friday evening with support from senior players from both the men's and ladies' sections. I implore all members to actively support our youth coaching set ups where possible.

- Over v Unders and teuchters v townies were a great success last year (especially as the overs retained the bragging rights) and will be on again this year. Dates will be posted on social media and within team chats. 29th August for teuchters v townies is already confirmed.
- Highland has continued to have excellent representation at Masters age group levels with a total of 9 players representing both Scotland and England at this year's Masters World Cups taking place at various locations across The Netherlands and Belgium. Special mentions go to Kayleigh Cattanach and Alexis Mackay on making their Scotland debuts this summer. The club is so proud of all our Masters players, and we hope this will continue into the next Masters season. I won't mention who but next year we hope that one Highland master's player will be celebrating their 100th cap so keep your eyes peeled for that
- HHC will continue to feed youth players to represent Highland District at various inter-district tournaments in the forthcoming season. Kenneth MacKenzie, Atholl Smith and Calum Duffy were selected in Brave squads over the summer and we hope to see more players get selected for these squads in the coming season.
- Just over a month ago, Highland sent 2 squads (yes 2 and some weeks we struggle to get 11 for matches!) over to Augsburg in Germany as part of the city pairing Inverness has with Augsburg. The trip was a roaring success with all players thoroughly enjoying the experience. Special thanks go to Kathryn Cooper on taking the lead in organising the trip.
- Indoor ran from Jan - Feb on Sundays 12-4. The club will look to do this again at the start of 2027. I am also looking into the possibility of arranging a men's team to play in the main indoor league over the winter. This will be with myself as coach. At the moment, it is just exploratory and I will have some logistical, umpiring and cost factors that will go into the decision on whether this can go ahead. Assuming I continue with my current role on the committee, I will update the committee and the men as I go along.
- Last and by no means least we are coming to everyone's favourite topic, umpiring! The club continues to require umpires to cover not just senior matches but junior competitions as well. Many thanks to all those who umpired matches last season.
- At the tail end of last season, I travelled to Aberdeen and successfully obtained the first part of my B badge. I am currently in communication with SHU for arranging the second part. Once I have this, I will be looking to get all over 18 members of our 3 squads badged for umpiring. This will be of huge benefit to the club as a whole and it is my main driver for getting this action. I will update

senior squads once I have my second part pass to organise theory (for those that need it....Carys) and then practical assessments. The more members we have badged, the more assistance we can provide teams and lessen the burden on those who already commit their time to assist with this.

- If anyone has any questions please let me know.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Position	2026-27	Nominated/Seconded
President	Chris Smith	Lyndsay Mitchell Gavin Allan
Secretary	Kathryn Cooper	Chris Smith Stuart Fisk
Playing Director	Gavin Allan	Daniel Courts Kevin Cummings
Treasurer	Gill Laws	Kathryn Cooper Gavin Allan
Child Protection Officer	Donna MacBeath	Kayleigh Yeudall Lynday Mitchell
Committee Member	Lyndsay Mitchell	Daniel Courts Kathryn Cooper
Committee Member	Carys Johns	Gavin Allan Chris Smith
Committee Member	Sophie Mackay	Lyndsay Mitchell Mark Watson

7. Subscription

- Next season fees are suggested at;

Group	Cost
SHU fees	Members pay this directly to SHU
Senior training fees	£85
Youth training fees	£60
Joint fees (Youth & Senior)	£110

- This is a slight increase of £5 on last year's senior fees, while youth is remaining the same.

- People may speak to Gill about a payment plan.
- October 1st is the deadline for paying fees. After this date, fees will increase to £100. Half season fees for people joining after 1st January 1st will pay £50 fees.
- Match fees will remain at £6 flat rate.

8. Sponsors

- The committee has proposed continuing on with player sponsors. It will be £50 to sponsor a player for the season.
- Daniel has asked if sponsors can pay more than £50. We have advised that if people want to donate more, then they can pay for a banner which will be displayed at the side of the pitch (£200 for the first year and then £100 to renew). Banners must be from companies that do not compete with HLH, e.g. no gyms, PTs etc.
- We are also suggesting having a sponsor day. On 26th September all three senior teams are playing at home, and we are hoping to make a day from it; bbq, cake stall etc. On the 27th September, there will be the primary festival as well.
- We are applying for a Cash for Kids fundraiser. Clubs enter, and whoever raises the most money, gets a sum of money - e.g. £5000 for first place.
- Kayleigh has mentioned a company that can potentially help support transport costs - boundless ability.

9. New Website

- We are moving away from Pitchero and we will use Spond instead.
- Suspect that there will be some teething issues as the website is new.
- We are not going to have a website through Spond as this costs money.
- We are instead going to have a google site, with all relevant documents and information - e.g. links to kit shop, links to social media accounts, training information, contacts, fixtures spreadsheet.
- Spond does money slightly differently to Pitchero for fees. Once people sign up for their team, Lyndsay will send a request for payment for fees.

10. A.O.B

- For Monday night folk, they still need to sign up to Sport:80 for SHU insurance. If folk do not want to pay this, then it will be made clear to them that they do not have any insurance to cover them.
- Gillian has stated that Tash that plays for Ladies 2s, her partner is an electrician. He could potentially install the defib that Fraser Riach has donated.

- Gillian has suggested that we need to look for another key holder for Ladies 2s for the Shinty pavilion for changing rooms.
- There will be a different format for adult helpers for helping at youth on a Friday night. Rather than making a rota, we are going to circulate an empty spreadsheet and people can sign up for what night that they are free. Victoria and Duncan will be in charge of making sure that this is adhered to and all dates are covered.
- Kayleigh has suggested that the Friday helper takes home the bibs and washes them.
- Kevin has asked for the dates for Moy - it is the 6th and 7th of August 2027.
- Kevin has suggested setting a date now for 2027 AGM. The committee will decide this at the next meeting.
- Gavin has a suggestion about Friday Youth Helpers - there is possibly a way to send reminders via Spond. We have stated that Friday night helpers cannot be added to the Youth Spond on a weekly basis due to child protection.
- Kayleigh has mentioned the Summer of Sport Funding which is still open for application. We are able to put in five applications for different things which can cover a multitude of things such as clothing, equipment, accommodation etc. We are suggesting that the club should apply for this.
- Heather has asked about the Dinner Dance venue. Kayleigh has also agreed with this. We are looking to have it at a more formal venue next year. We will continue to use the legion for the Christmas Party.

Meeting has been closed at 8.15pm