



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH HARBOUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE NATIONAL HOCKEY CENTRE
AT 6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 5th August 2025**

NHHA President Elna Meller welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting.

PRESENT: As per the attendance register.

Division Delegates:

- Coaches Division: Randal Bartholomew (votes: 4) present
- Clubs Division: Carol Birdsall and Sandra Leith (ECB) (votes: 44) present
- Life Members and Supports Division: Merv Huxford (votes: 4) present
- Schools Division: Randal Bartholomew (votes: 44) present
- Umpires and Officials: Gavin Hawke (votes: 4) present

APOLOGIES: As per the attendance book.

Carried

As per accordance with the constitution, any disputes need to be raised, the floor will be asked all in favour and the motion will be carried.

MINUTES OF AGM 16th October 2024.

Error in the minutes on the 2024 general business about the eligibility criteria of Life Members discussions. It was noted that we named Marion Webb instead of Marion Ellis.

Moved amended minutes be taken as read.

Carried

Moved Minutes are a true and accurate record.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING from Previous Minutes

NHHA to develop and adopt criteria for Life Members. A working group was formed and worked on this criterion. This was accepted by Life Members and our Board.

Carried

Special Resolution – vote on the updated draft Constitution

Elna Meller spoke to the special resolution for the adoption of a new constitution.

Questions:

- Merv Huxford – After clarity, if Elna and Michelle can vote as members of their Clubs, as cannot vote in their roles. Maybe they can vote but not with President hat on but as a club member. An example is Elna being the NHHA President and an NSU member.
 - o Member of the office trumps
- Merv Huxford – Clarity around boundaries in the constitution. Hockey Hibiscus Trust (HHT) isn't included as an affiliated member to North Harbour, which could affect funding applications.
 - o North Harbour would sign that HHT are affiliated, as we have in the past.
- Colin French – Commended the work that NHHA have done in communicating the updates required to the Constitution in the comparison document which is far better transparency than some Associations.
- Merv Huxford – Huge amount of work has been done behind the scenes by NHHA to get to this point.

Special resolution document to be signed by Life Member, Schools and Club division delegates.

- Life Member – Merv Huxford
- Schools - Randal Bartholomew
- Club – Carol Birdsall

Carried

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT – CEO/Chair Report: Dave Kosoof and Michelle Bentham

Dave Kosoof spoke to the Community Impact Report, followed by Michelle Bentham.

Dave spoke about the review and shift of programmes that NHHA offers including the development clinics (HEA). This came out of a review of our existing Academics and the declining numbers. Not only did this have a rebrand to HEA but also a restructure which includes a tiered caching programme. This has resulted in a significant increase in quality of players / coaches.

The 2024 Gala dinner was a huge success and we had over 100 people attend and raised some much needed funds for infrastructure projects including scoreboards, grandstands and H5 dugout.

Our House to Home initiatives have continued. You'll see the plants and bean bags in Club colours and all sorts of things in the Clubhouse that are giving it a homely feel, including the Harbour shirts, the Championship and Honours boards and collage in the stairwell. Thanks to Elna for her support with these. There is also the Black Stick shirt unveilings which have been led by Michelle. This is an outstanding initiative and its great to see #harbour4Life come through so strongly again and its great to see how much it means to so many of our players.

I would like to thank the board for another big year. Gavin stepped down earlier this year after completing his 6 year term. I would like to thank Gav for all his work over that time. We still currently at 6 members with Nicky Shave tendered resignation. Again I would like to say a huge Thank you to Nicky for all her work for 30 hours a week focusing on our sustainability initiatives. One of the key pieces of work for the board over the last year or so was the reset of the Strategic Plan which is due to come out soon, and now that we've done that we are in the process of reviewing the sub committees to ensure better focus and to support us to achieve this. This is also a key part of us working towards the Good Governance Mark with SportNZ and we are very close to achieving this. In 2024, we had a mixed bags of representative results. While NHC was good and the girls won U18 the U18 boys is a key area that needs improvement and we are hopeful that the HEA will help us to achieve this. A highlight was Isaac Houlbrooke being selected and going to the Olympics which sees him being the 8th Harbour Home grown Olympian and 3rd Rosminian.

Michelle noted that 2024 was a year of transformation and triumph and despite the hurdles, we closed the year on a high, with remarkable progress and achievements across many fronts.

We began the year with an internal restructure and realignment which was an essential step in addressing our financial challenges and positioning Harbour Hockey for long-term success. This transformation was guided by our newly developed Strategic Plan which now provides us with a clear, focused direction for the future.

Strengthening our financial foundation was a top priority in 2024. With the commitment of our team and the unwavering support of our partners, we met this goal—returning to break-even and even achieving a modest surplus. We were excited to welcome new commercial partners Indomie Noodles and Pioneer Pies, and we are especially grateful for the continued support of our long-term partners: Cello, TigerTurf, Go Hockey, Flow Transportation, Tsunami Sportswear, Dynamic Physio, Speedy Signs, and others.

We sincerely thank our funding partners—The Lion Foundation, NZCT, Pub Charity, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, North and South Trust, TAB, Four Winds Foundation, and Aktive – Tū Manawa—as well as Harbour Sport as their investment has been critical to our success.



One of the year's major highlights was the launch of our Build a Legacy Campaign in May. A generous \$100,000 donation from Brent and Pat Miller sparked a fundraising challenge and our Harbour whānau responded in force, raising \$104,971. This will be remembered as a key milestone in our history and securing our future.

These funds allowed us to make important capital improvements: new dugouts at Harbour 5 (with thanks to NSU), new scoreboards across all turfs, and a grandstand on the far side of Cello 1. We are incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together.

I'd like to acknowledge the Harbour Hockey Charitable Trust Board—Peter Felstead (Chair), Ian Greenwood, Sharon Williamson, Pete Worrall, Ken Maplesden, for their ongoing leadership and countless hours overseeing the facility on behalf of our community.

Another key highlight of the year was the return of events. Our dedicated team hosted a full calendar of standout events this year, including:

- The Japan Series (March)
- Heritage and Indian King's Birthday Tournaments
- Mary Clinton and Olympic Stick Secondary School Tournaments (September)
- Northern Region U16s (October)
- PHL (December)

The icing on the cake was the Masters World Cup in November—a phenomenal 10-day tournament that brought together 2,700 participants, 129 teams, and 23 nations for 397 games. It was an incredible showcase of our world-class facilities and welcoming community. Our thanks to Hockey New Zealand for entrusting us with this prestigious event.

Looking back, 2024 was a landmark year for North Harbour Hockey. We not only weathered the storms, we've emerged stronger, more resilient, and more connected as a community. The financial stability and improvements we've achieved provide a strong foundation for continued growth, innovation, and success in the years ahead.

Thank you to everyone who has walked with us on this journey.

Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

None.

Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alastair Wright spoke about the financial report.

Michelle Bentham provided Financial Analysis comparisons for the previous 5 years.

Questions:

- Merv Huxford – Why have we budgeted for a lot less from grants?
 - o Alastair Wright - Fewer grants are being approved than in previous years which is something everyone is experiencing.
- Merv Huxford – What have you been applying for? Would you have more success if applying for something else?

- Alastair Wright – Funding available has been reduced. Applied for the same grants as in the past.
- Merv Huxford – who makes the funding applications
 - Michelle Bentham – I create the applications and get advice. Key learning is that you need to stay on their cycle.
 - The expectation is that grant funding will dry up in three years especially if the Online Gambling Bill is passed.
- Merv Huxford – Looking at the accounts, you can see how much was subs, or sponsorship. Is sponsorship reflected in cash in hand or less in fees?
 - Dave Kosoof – We can send through information. The board looked into this in our June meeting.
 - Michelle Bentham – If you have any questions like this, feel free to email us. Our fees are based on cost recovery from the Trust. We have calculated what it costs for the replacement of turfs, lights, etc and these are then divided over the lifetime and broken done into our annual license fee. For the Trust. From there Harbour considers this cost plus other revenue amounts such as the Bar & Cafe, Grants and programme fees to calculate the lowest the fees can go and this is passed onto the Clubs.
- Paul Morrison – Any comments on our cash flow at the lowest point?
 - Alastair Wright – The lowest point is April, before we invoice the Club's winter season. We also had big bills which built up for the infrastructure improvements and the Trust was reimbursed over that time. Timing issue with cash flow.
- Randal Bartholomew – Cast our minds back to when we saw net loss after net loss of over \$400k, so well done to the team in turning this around. And appreciate the effort that went into providing figures for 2025, even when talking about 2024.

The Financial Report be accepted.

Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM ACCOUNTS

None.

Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The item was removed due to the adoption of the proposed Constitution. Dave Kosoof explained the board 2 appointed and 3 nominated.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY – Resolution of Change

Moved that Nicolene Van Der Merwe be elected as NHHA Secretary.
 And Jayvant Dhanjee is Standing down

Carried

HONORARY SOLICITOR

Moved that Anthony Harper be elected as the NHHA Honorary Solicitor.

Carried

Election of AUDITORS – Resolution of Change

The item was removed. William Buck to remain. Michelle Bentham explained that originally, we put out a change for the auditor to align with HNZ, which is BDO Tauranga. After we received the quote, it was too expensive, so we are staying with William Buck.

Carried

ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBER

Elna Meller shared the process that was established in the last year with the help of the working group.

- Harbour receives nominations.
- Harbour makes sure the criteria are met.
- Harbour takes the nominations to Life Members Division.
- If endorsed by the Life Members Division, then the nomination is taken to the NHHA Board to be ratified.
- Tonight, we have two appointments with Life Members.

Michelle Bentham spoke to the citation for Gavin Hawke.

Dave Kosoof spoke to the citation for Ian Bartholomew.

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Colin Chester – Congratulations on getting the stand and congratulations on awarding another two life members.

Dave Kosoof acknowledged Nicky Shave. Nicky has resigned from the board. Congratulations on what you have done for the Association. Your governance experience will be hard to replace and obviously, your work on the Te Hono project. Winning awards. It is special for us and the project wouldn't be able to reach the level it has without Nicky.

Elna Meller thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm.