Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Hampton in Arden Sports Club Limited

Held at the clubhouse on 19th January 2026 at 7.30pm

The President John Eccleston welcomed members to the meeting and offered apologies for absence from the following members

Rosalia Eccleston, Simon Coley, Chris Williamson, Sandy Wasse, Evan and Carol Grant, Jean Scott-Miller, Marc Rolf, Stewart Cowling, Diana and Alun Thomas, Penny Bratos, Bryonie Kelly, Andrew Robinson, Brian Stote, Cathy Whiting, Pete Dacre and Mark Harris.

He also drew attention to those members we had sadly lost during the preceding year, in particular Bob Senior, Robin Watkin, Brian Thorpe and Gerry Boston all of whom had made a great contribution to the club.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

There were no comments on the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and approval of the minutes was proposed by John Eccleston, seconded by Geoff Phillipps and approved by the meeting. For the next AGM the Secretary agreed to circulate the minutes to members at the same time as the notice is issued.

2 Chair's Address and Section Reports

The Chair, Graham Hollway welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked John Morgans the previous chairman for his seven years' service. He reported that the proposed extension to the clubhouse was progressing well and thanked Tom Higginson, a hockey member, for this work in drawing up plans and preparing the panning application which has now been approved. This extension will be funded by the 200 club.

Bar report – Bar takings are up almost £14,000 which is welcome news. Tighter controls on staff hours and bar purchasing are continuing to pay off. The bar continues to pull its weight and the clubhouse, thanks to all the improvements made, is brighter warmer and more welcoming.

Cricket – The section played 18 games winning around half of them. The section still struggles for numbers and anyone interested should contact Mick Fuller.

Hockey – The club continues to provide wonderful family friendly hockey offering opportunities for players of all ages and abilities. We remain proud of our excellent astro-turf pitch and are grateful to everyone who helps keep standards high both on and off the pitch. Junior hockey remains a priority and we have invested heavily in strengthening our junior programme this year. Junior coaching in particular has proved hugely popular and successful. Performance highlights include the men's fourth team gaining promotion, the over 35's team reaching the National semi-finals and the men's first team looking to gain promotion back to Division 1. Five of our members have gained international honours at Masters level for England and Scotland and Archie the men's first team goalkeeper has been selected for the Wales under 21 team.

LED lights have been installed on the pitch which has made a great improvement and huge thanks must go to Steve Bradley and the Recreational Trust for continuing to provide a top class playing surface. We also have new sheds and kickboard and thanks go to Wyckham Blackwell for supplying the timber for those.
This season is proving to be a difficult one for the ladies' section and we have reduced to two teams due to the difficulty of fielding three teams each week. However, we have new girls coming through due to our junior coaching and we anticipate being able to reinstate three teams next season. The mens' section continues with five teams competing and overall the section is in good health. We have launched a new kit across the club and renewed our terms with Akuma Sport based in Balsall Common.
We hosted a memorial match recently for Rachel Field a former member who sadly passed away from a brain tumor at the age of 26, and also a Hockey for Heroes match on Remembrance Day both of which was hugely supported. We also look forward to celebrating the 80th anniversary of the hockey club at an event to be held at the club on 27th June 2026.
Sincere thanks were offered to all coaches, captains and committee members who have contributed and we look forward to continuing a successful season ahead.

Petanque – Winter pairs winners were Simon Coley and Geoff Phillips. The Christmas Melee was won by Simon Coley. Good Friday Charity Triples was won by Phil Bradshaw, Mark Gay and Alex Moriarty (England Junior), all from Bath and £1,030 was raised for Solihull Samaritans. Singles was won by Simon Coley. Shooting was won by Simon Coley and Summer Pairs was won by Julie Williamson and Simon Coley.

Summer League: Division One winners were "Taken for Granted". Runners up were "Father Ted and the Doylies". Division Two winners were "Boule Busters". Runners up were "On The Coche". Finals day was won by "On The Coche". Runners up were "Julies Boulers". Our four teams in the West Midlands Summer League finished fourth, fifth, fourth and eighth in their respective divisions. We had no regional successes this year, but a team representing the region in the Inter Regional Championships at Weston Super Mare finished second and came away with a medal for the second year running. Two teams were entered in the EuroCup but sadly lost and will now play in the plate competition. We hosted a training session for England Juniors shortly before they went off to Spain to play in the European Championships. The 2025/26 winter pairs competition has started with 33 teams entered and finals day will be on 12th April.
Pétanque is very popular but to hold any regional competitions we need to have sixteen pistes. We have the space to build the extra six pistes we need, and we will be looking at ways we can fund that. We are desperately short of junior players and if anybody is interested in helping us set this up please contact the section. We hold four social sessions a week when any individual can play and from March until the beginning of October we hold coaching sessions. Please contact us for details. On Good Friday we will hold our charity competition which we hope may support one of the Prostate Cancer charities in memory of one of our original members Gerry Boston who sadly passed away in December. We also host corporate days which we hope to expand.

Pickleball – this has attracted new members to the club and three weekly social sessions are held. A box league and a tournament were both held in the run up to Christmas.

Squash/Racquets - The section is going in a positive direction, in particular with a thriving junior section on Saturday mornings. Next season we will be reducing our Warwickshire league teams to two reflecting the difficulty of consistently fielding three teams however on a positive note two of our juniors are now playing in our League teams reflecting the success of our coaching programme. It is hoped to re-start a racquet ball team soon and "Rusty Racquets" sessions are planned for both squash and racquet ball. Coaching is active and has succeeded in improving playing levels.

Tennis – The section currently has 211 members which is slightly up on last year and an increase in the 20-40 age group is encouraging. Coaching has been hugely improved by the hiring of Dan James and junior numbers in particular are also increasing. We run three mens and ladies' teams in the Coventry and Birmingham leagues and all teams performed well apart from the mens' second team which was relegated. Tournaments were well attended as was the Awards Presentation evening. Box leagues continue with social tennis during the week. Thanks were offered to all the committee members for their efforts and in particular to Jordan, Zara and also Ted Frith. Special thanks go to Stephen Phelps-Jones for his maintenance of the courts and to Cath McElholm and Stuart Hamilton for sharing the chair's responsibilities and for helping to run the section.

3. **Accounts**

Graham Hollway presented the accounts to the end of April 2025 and informed the meeting that turnover was down on last year and due to an increase in energy and fixed costs, the club had shown a loss of £20,399. The club had reserves of £162,948. Going forward however, the half year accounts to the end of October 2025 are more favourable, with utility costs reducing by around £3,000 and bar takings increasing by around £14,000. The half year accounts therefore show a profit of around £7.000. The accounts will be filed at Companies House before the deadline of 31st January 2026.

4. **Election of Officers**

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the Memorandum and Articles, the current officers being prepared to continue in office, their retention was proposed by Julia Tortise seconded by Cath Mcelholm and approved by the meeting:-

President – John Eccleston,

Chair – Graham Hollway,

Secretary – Lis Hedley

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the Memorandum and Articles, Marc Rolf, having been appointed as a director since the previous AGM is formally retired at this meeting but has indicated his willingness to continue in post. His appointment as a director was proposed by Julie Williamson, seconded by John van der Rest and approved by the meeting.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the Memorandum and Articles, the re- appointment of Sam Hiskett, as the longest serving remaining director on the board was proposed by Scott Angliss, seconded by Richard Bradley and approved by the meeting.

The Secretary reminded the meeting that the club is currently lacking a Treasurer and asked anyone who is interested in filling this position to contact her.

5. Appointment of the Reporting Accountants

The club accounts are prepared and audited by Polkadot and Wellkept and their continued appointment was proposed by Graham Kelly, seconded by John Eccleston and approved unanimously by the meeting.

6. Presentation of the Presidents Plate

The President offered his thanks to all those whose efforts had helped the club over the year and the President's Plate was awarded to Richard Jones.

7. Any other business

The President informed the meeting that after serving for 16 years he proposed to stand down before the next AGM.

The Secretary outlined plans to apply to Solihull Council for a Premises Licence which would enable to club to host specific social events where non-members could be served alcohol. She stressed that this would be at times of the club's choosing and that the general rules would still apply that if people wished to drink at the club they needed to be members. It is hoped the application would be submitted to the Council by the end of January.

The Chair informed the meeting that in general the club subscriptions would be increased by 10% across the board at the beginning of April 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.