

# WEST BRIDGFORD MENS HOCKEY CLUB

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Wednesday 23rd April 2008

President Jon Clewes chaired the meeting. 50 members in attendance.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies received from Claire Smith, Sophie Womack, Carly Stimpson, Sarah Aaron, Carla Ashmore, Eileen Black, Wendy Jackson, Anna Notman, Jenny Garnham, Mike Drinkwater, Clive Harrison, Dave Sandercock, Malcolm Baker, Mark Carroll, Ian Johnson, James Carter, Chris Berry

2. Minutes of the last A.G.M. – The minutes were signed as correct.

3. Matters arising - There were no matters arising.

### 4. Reports

#### a) President – Jon Clewes

The season started for me with the surprise of being asked to become President for the year, which I have to say was a huge honour, this was followed by Derby County being promoted to the Premiership, and as you saw last year, I am a big mate with Ramie. This was going to be a great year. From the beginning of the season, the football and hockey year diverged.

The hockey side has been what I would say is a great success again in terms of the playing and more importantly the social side, because whilst we all like playing hockey at our different levels, I think we would all agree the social side makes this Club what it is. The Men's first team have had a difficult season, but have managed to retain their league status, unlike Derby. However the Ladies 1sts have had an extremely successful season coming second in their league and runners up in the cup. Again the junior sides have gone from strength to strength, the Ladies starting a Fourth team, Junior training throughout has also been a great success with increased numbers, and thanks must go to Bob and all the coaches and helpers on a Sunday and Monday, and the ladies junior and senior coaching on a Wednesday. If only Derby's training had gone better. We will hear from the various captains on the details of their seasons shortly.

The social side again has been a great success with the beer festivals, the curry nights, the team fines night and the new racing night. Thanks especially to Matt Cullen for the dinner for two which I won. Again the dinner lived up to expectations and was another success. The end of season tournament was another success with the inauguration of the Mike Price Presidents challenge Trophy which was won by Doug's Club Invitation side (mainly the First Team). I hope the next President can reclaim the Trophy and confirm I am available for selection. At the tournament, we saw the Club gazebo out to protect us from the rain and then we saw it on the roof. Up and down just like Derby. Thanks also to the staff from the crematorium that ran the barbecue, and thanks to them, a vast quantity of beer was drunk

#### b) Chairman – Geoff Bail

This season has been an eventful one for the Club on and off the pitch, and I think that it is worth reviewing the key events here: COMBINED AGM in future to known as the All Genders Meeting? A step in the right direction and a good indication of how the Club is developing. Let's see how it goes?

CLUB HEALTH CHECK With the introduction of 4<sup>th</sup> Monarchs Team the club has become what many consider to be the biggest and best in the East Midlands. We have a new web site that makes information dissemination and communication much easier and which helps enormously with the weekly functioning of the teams and selection. We have a good reputation as a strong but fair competitor – and an enviable reputation as the best bar in the League. On the pitch we have had our ups and downs, and one of my main concerns is that we continue to bolster our ageing sides lower down the club with youngsters coming up and seasoned players coming down. This 2 way process is vital for the continuing strength of the club. We regularly lose many of our best home-grown talent as Further Education beckons, so we must continue to try and attract student players each season

KIT Continuing the theme of club strengths – the new kit has played a part in creating a good impression – so much nicer to start a match looking like members of the same Club rather than a group of Oxfam shoppers. Teams wishing to attract sponsorship have adapted the theme – initially with limited success – with new kit made from performance materials; we do need to ensure that the coordinated BRAND look across the teams is maintained.

SOCIAL EVENTS Another good year with record bar profits? – a couple of well attended Curry & Quiz nights, a new Race Night Event that was well received and a great Dinner Dance to cap it all off. Thanks must go to Liz and Andy for their hard work in pulling all these together – Derek for the exemplary bar – Abbott Ale – Tim Taylors Landlord and Exmore Gold all on at once for the Tournament – thought I had died and gone to Heaven (nearly did). And of course my Jo for curry production on an industrial scale, and Coops for his quiz – where else could you laugh so much and eat so much for a fiver?

TOURNAMENT Not even sideways sleet and sub-zero temperatures could put a dampener on the End of Season Tournament. Thanks must go to Jonesy for his remarkable organisation of an event which is magical in its simplicity – play a bit – drink a bit – play a bit - --- drink a lot – possibly eat something if not doing the other 2 things. Plus a great atmosphere in the clubhouse at the end with family and friend helping to make that special WB spirit. Not sure about the face paint!!

PITCH DEVELOPMENT One of my main concerns this year has been the future of the pitch. The recent grooming machine purchase by the Authority ground staff has improved it greatly but tears and ridges will continue to develop and we need to ensure our playing future with a new larger playing surface. I can report that recent negotiations with the school have been very positive and that the new head appreciates that a new surface will be needed sooner rather than later. His main

stipulation is that if we wish to enlarge the area then we need to look at funding the difference. So if all goes well we could be looking at a new enlarged pitch in a few years time. As part of the plan we have proposals agreed by the Head for an extended practice / viewing / waiting area and 2 team dugouts which Martin will provide details of later. We need therefore to be thinking about raising funds – and to that end we will be putting together a Funding Committee shortly to get things moving. If you would like to be part of that team please let us know.

**CLUBS FIRST** First the good news – after a fantastic amount of work by Sharon, Martin and Bob, plus a team of dedicated workers the Clubs “Clubs First” bid was accepted. However – due to the expulsion of the 9<sup>th</sup> team for playing underage players earlier in the season the accreditation has been withheld for this year. However – we have been assured that we can reapply next season and that we will be accredited. My thanks to all who have been involved.

**IN CONCLUSION** It is important that we continue to remind ourselves of why the Club has been successful and that we cannot be complacent about the future. Support for youth training on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings is fundamental to our future, as is a continued willingness to get involved in the support activities, without which we wouldn't have a game to play, umpiring – someone, in fact two people have to do it, working on the bar, providing hospitality for the opposition, keeping the clubhouse and pitch tidy and supporting your captain wherever possible, and helping to organise and support social events, are all a part of club life which is often forgotten about – please get involved, offer to help - it is your club.

#### **c) Treasurer - James Cashmore**

Accounts for the season were presented to the meeting

Turnover was similar to last year and surplus of

- 1) Bar takings were slightly ahead of last year but still set a new record, and maintained gross profit even with price rises, thanks to Derek's astute buying power.
- 2) Kit for re-sale down as part of subscription plus some sponsorship obtained
- 3) Hiring pitches slightly down as Monarchs have been using school pitch
- 4) Tea Lady cost down as been off ill
- 5) 200 Club still generating income of £1,500
- 6) Big water bill
- 7) Still adding £3,200 to sinking fund

Club has £60k in bank accounts, but £16k is sinking fund for maintenance/repair of clubhouse

On behalf of the Committee, James proposed that annual subs increased to £60, seconded by Andrew Barker. Still seen as cheapest in the area. Concern from ladies is in excess of £60 as similar to other ladies clubs. Carried.

#### **d) Social Secretary – Andy McCarroll**

There were all the usual social events. The biggest, and most recent, was the dinner dance. 120 people attended, slightly down from the previous year, but still a success. The band updated their playlist slightly, which went down well, and we made a profit of £58. A couple of thousand dinner dances and we'll be able to get a new pitch. The curry and quizzes were the usual successes, and thanks to Coops and the Bails plus helpers for organising and running that. A couple of new events took place this season. The race night went pretty well, and now we know a bit more about what we are doing should be even better next year. Also we had a written quiz at Christmas, and while we didn't sell many answer sheets as people teamed up, it did a good job of keeping people in the clubhouse, and buying drinks. Thanks to Faye to organising entertainment for the ladies on the same day.

#### **e) 1st XI Mens – Paul Sibley**

##### **P22 W8 D4 L10 F56 A52 Pts 28 Eighth**

Apologies received from Dave Sandercock - currently in Tenerife enjoying some much needed rest after the long and tiring season he has endured! The season started with a simple question: “Do you fancy being vice skipper sibs?” - why not I thought, can't be too hard, just shout occasionally when normal skipper isn't around and offer hockey clichés now and again to the new coach. Little did I know what was in store? Pre-season brought a fresh start for the top half of the club with the new coach Ian Johnson coming in to take over from Doug Stuart. With this fresh wind of change came some very impressive performances in the summer league and the pre-season friendlies. The fitness of the first two squads was at an all time high and we even showed up at that fine institute of sport – Loughborough University, for a state of the art fitness test, some surprising results were produced. Todd Mills was the fastest over 10 and 30 metres, the eyebrow training had clearly paid off, Kev Wooley came a surprising 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in those disciplines (modern science is a wonder but the legs had to be back at the science and technology centre at the end of the session). The most agile people at the session were Dan Hammond and Will Good – Ando was still travelling other wise he was a dead cert. And Sibbo had the most powerful legs because he could jump the highest – coaching the women did have its benefits! All in all we discovered that our squad average for these disciplines was well below the sub-elite athlete standards, senior male and indeed youth standards.

With some notable absentees during the pre-season games – Ando and Lewy, it gave other people a chance to shine, new recruit Charlie Wright had joined from Harbourne and fitted snugly into his position, (Harbourne would go on to win the league however!?) Tom Lambourne came in and showed the older members how to perform and behave and an interesting battle for left back was going on between Dave Kingston and the ever dependable Pagey. Some impressive results followed in the summer league and with some good performances over national league Sikh Union and ex-national league Nottingham we were feeling confident for the new season, goals were flowing and the whole squad were playing and fighting for positions.

The league started with a couple of tough games away to the self proclaimed favourites Lichfield who had come down from the national league and we were unlucky to come away with only a draw, this was followed by a free scoring game against the eventual winners Harborne which we lost 8 – 5 and then a 5-2 loss to the ever efficient Coventry. We were performing well

without key players but not getting the results. Ando was still abroad yet we were scoring goals – Lewy was enjoying some home games for the 3's and Tunno had joined him just shy of his 300<sup>th</sup> appearance for the club. The trend of playing well but losing continued and with this bad luck came changes – confidence started to leave the players, Sandercock got injured – again although he did leave us with a Hollywood cry of “Just win” against Worcester and not being Braveheart this had little effect and his season was over, Kinky went off to star in Hot Fuzz and be a policeman and the vice captain was promoted to full captain – brilliant!

With this lack of confidence a split began to appear in the team and despite the re-inclusion of Ando and Lewy results just didn't come our way and the players panicked, the season turned on the Mansfield game when we were 2-0 up at half time against our biggest rivals but lost 4-2 to the overpaid guns for hire. Keen to keep our premier league status and the threat of 4 being relegated from the premier league and due to some major pleading from his wife to take him back - the team decided that in order to rally the players the players Doug should return to the helm. We would like to thank Ian for all his hard work in the first half of the season and wish him all the best in the future. After a storyline straight out of footballers wives but without the money, cars, talent or indeed the wives, Christmas was upon us: our playing record - played 11, won 1

The break appeared to do us some good and we won our first game of 2008 against Lichfield with a convincing 4-0 thrashing, changes were rung and Tunno was back to provide experience from the bench, Sibbo was moved to Centre-mid to foul, Lewy was back at centre-back and Ando was scoring again. The victory was made even more enjoyable by the amusing match report Lichfield had written comparing us to animals in a zoo and being let out for a feed – and this was without the old guard of Gilly, Turpin and Binder! A loss followed to Coventry again, but a win against a fiery and unpleasant Chesterfield who were battling for the title gave us renewed hope, this culminated in our best performance of the season against 3<sup>rd</sup> place Olton – a convincing 9-2 thrashing at home and started our 6 game unbeaten finish to the season. Goals were flowing again and the egos up front were playing for one another, the stalwarts at the back were keeping things tight and some great victories over our local rivals and teams in and around us at the bottom of the table ensured we would finish out of the danger zone which this season could have stretched to the bottom 4.

Highlights of the season were the pre-season fitness sessions in Bridgford Park – a combination of dads army on manoeuvres and a nature documentary, safety in numbers where the weaker members of the pack were picked off by the local chavs. The defensive record for the season was one of the best ever thanks to the average age of the back 4 going up, the performances of our keeper Mr Ward and indeed the safety of playing behind a rotund sweeper once more, although with a bit more hair. The drinking prowess of the team also seemed to improve with various drinking races throughout the season spurred on by a university attending Mills and the ever present students and surrogate children of Doug, Fasey and Newman, and of course the last game of the season away at our rivals Mansfield, complete with a new aqueduct built into their goal which we won 2-0. This also marked the 300<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> team appearance for Tunno and he marked the occasion with a brilliant yellow card in the first umpiring hat trick I have ever seen 3 - yellows in the space of a minute!! Tunno won MOM as well after a judges arm wrestle with Mills. Lowlights of the season were Sandercock's brittle knees buckling once more – no-one told him the physio lady was not around this year! Lewy's feigning of a broken wrist to get out of the remaining away games and a new world record for whingeing set by Todd at a rate of 265 whinges per hour on the pitch. Hopefully we have learnt from our mistakes this season and can move on to bigger and better things.

Doug thanked Sibbo for captaining the side and regular supporters especially Malcolm Baker and Dave Allison

#### **f) 1sts XI Ladies – Faye Wilkinson**

**P18 W11 D3 L4 F63 A36 Pts 36 Second**

This season the ladies first team finished higher than ever before, second in the Nottinghamshire Premier League. If it wasn't for Southwell we'd have had both the league and cup titles. Paul Sibley, the new coach had a tough job on his hands after some struggling in previous seasons but winning 6 games in a row before Xmas, things were looking good. The momentum kept going and some excellent results were produced. Seventeen different players later and with 11 different goal scorers, we finished second, only just securing the place on the last day of the season. The weekend after, the cup final! After meeting our second team in the semi-finals, there was now only Southwell standing in our way. With a massive crowd on the Sunday at highfields, even in the snow we fought our opposition until the end, unfortunately losing 4-3 in the end.

First team thanks go to the Thurs night coaches Paul Sibley and Dan Hammond, men that have umpired for us and everyone involved in our most successful season ever, we hope our good fortune continues next season

#### **g) 2nd XI Mens – Ali McIntosh**

**P22 W8 D1 L13 F80 A76 Pts 35 Sixth**

No report received

#### **h) 2nd XI Ladies – Claire Brandon-White**

**P18 W4 D1 L13 F29 A 67 Pts 13 Ninth**

Unfortunately the 2<sup>nd</sup> team were relegated this year after a difficult season. Right from the start we always knew that this was going to be a difficult season for the 2s. After gaining promotion to the premier division last season we then faced the prospect of playing in this higher division whilst at the same time losing six regular players from last year either due to pregnancy, going off to university or moving up to the 1st team. Therefore with a very new team and people re-shuffled about in different positions we went on to play in the prem.

Although we did lose the majority of games throughout the season we did play really well as a team and did not always deserve to lose!! The whole team played well together and although we were not always on top I think everyone did enjoy the majority of games and the experience of playing in the prem – lets just hope we can go straight back up next season and give it another go.

Top scorer for the 2s: me with 10, and Liz A with 5, and 2<sup>nd</sup> team player of the season went to Alice Linekar. Special mention also needs to go to Max and Lindsey who both came up from the 3<sup>rd</sup> team and played all season for the 2s. Both showed that they were more than capable of playing at prem level and seemed to grow with confidence throughout the season.

#### **i) 3rd XI Mens – Ben Lambourne**

**P22 W9 D4 L9 F47 A57 Pts 31 Sixth**

Another good season for the 3rds in the third season in the Midlands premier and a record breaking season of 31 points from 9 wins 4 draws and 9 losses! Thanks to everyone who played and there was a fine mix of youth and experience with highlights of taking points from both Beeston and Cannock at home.

#### **j) 3rd XI Ladies – Leanne Savage**

**P20 W10 D4 L6 F31 A28 Pts 34 Fourth**

It's been an extremely enjoyable and successful season in the Ladies' 3<sup>rd</sup> Team! We finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the league and also made the semi-final of the plate. Whilst we are obviously very pleased to have done as well as we have this season, we are also looking ahead to next season – which holds great promise if we are able to build on our achievements of this season. There are lots of people to thank! Firstly thank you to Claire Smith, who has been vice-captain this season. Claire has played week in week out and has played as a forward, midfielder and defender – she will be greatly missed next season if she goes away to Uni! Also big thanks to Sharon, whose experience and advice has been invaluable both to me and the team.

The Ladies 3s has been a successful mix of experience and youth! Player of the season was decided in the very last match – with Sharon Cheetham narrowly missing out by just a few votes. The deciding votes went to Amy Matharu – our youngest player and in only her first full season playing adult hockey. Over the course of the season we have had 29 different players in the team – so far too many to mention them all! But special thanks to Nikki Salter who has been our keeper for the second half of the season, to Sara Green who has been Miss Consistent in midfield – coming back from having a baby last year, to Liz Archer for doubling up to help us out, a well-done to Jo Darby who was our 3<sup>rd</sup> team most-improved player and last but not least to Zena Oliver – our top scorer with 13 goals! We have had some excellent results over the season – a highlight was beating SBU 3s 2-0 at home after having lost 5-3 at their place. It was an excellent win that resulted from a fantastic team effort. But we also had some rather frustrating results an example being a 0-0 draw against Redhill – how many 0-0 draws do you get in hockey?

We wouldn't have had such a successful season had it not been for the commitment of our team of coaches. Thanks to Neil Stephens for leading the coaching this season; to Jed Mills for working in particular with the 3s and also coming to our games (even a Sunday away v Newark – now that's commitment for you!) Thanks to Chris Berry for working with the keepers, leading sessions in the second half of the season and umpiring and finally to Tom Barratt, who has helped at training, games and has also umpired a few of our games! Not forgetting our guest coaches/helpers – Faye, Loz, Izzy & Averil! We hope that they have enjoyed it and that they realise how much their help and support is valued. Moving on to Umpires – well we wouldn't be able to play our games without you and we know it can be a pretty thankless task so... A huge thanks to everyone who has umpired for us this season! We have had 11 different umpires for our 22 games and the 'winner' was Rob Green with 5 games! Thanks also to Chris Berry, Tom Barratt, Jon Clewes, Mike Barnes, Andy Bell, Rich Bonsall, Geoff Bail, Izzy Staton, Pete Bonnett & Bob Douglas. It's been an excellent season and I hope everyone's looking forward to next season!

#### **k) 4th XI Mens – Mark Johnson**

**P22 W4 D8 L10 F43 A53 Pts 20 Eighth**

New season, new captain, new team but the same old story. We would play well against the good teams, poorly against the weaker teams. Our best performances of the season were against Loughborough Uni away where we lost 1 nil in monsoon conditions and our backs against the wall goalless home draw with Beeston. Beeston, I hate to say it were the best team in the league, who went through the season undefeated and only dropped 6 points, 2 of them against us. Our worst performances were against teams at the lower end of the table but in particular Nottingham. We lost to 4 -2 at their place, one of only 2 wins for them all season and then the return fixture where we drew 2 all. All of this inconsistency meant that with 3 matches to go we were staring relegation in the face. The team went away to Sutton Coldfield, via Coventry to collect a goal keeper, and came away with hard fought 3 all draw. The following week the team made the long trip to Worcester, relegation threatened team, and came away with a one nil win.

This meant going into the last match of the season, we still had a chance of survival but we had to win against Loughborough students, a team who had only lost 3 matches all season, and hope other results went our way. Thanks to the modern education system Loughborough uni broke up on the Friday and on the Saturday turned up with 9 players, including a rugby player who had picked up a stick for the first time and no goal keeper. By half time we were 4 nil up, but the uni rallied in the second half scoring 2 quick goals to make it 4 – 2. Bridge held their nerve and eventually ran out 10 – 3 winners. We had done our bit and were now reliant on Edgbaston dropping points against Leek which they dually did. Result the 4<sup>th</sup> team had stayed up without the aid of the 5<sup>th</sup> team. During the season we have seen players go, Mr Thomas to the thirds, Mr Waverley to the other side of the world and Mr Peachey to London, who's threat of breaking all our legs if we didn't stay up, kept us going to the end.

Their replacements, mainly younger members of the club have stepped up to the plate and towards the end of the season we had 7 of the current under 18s playing for us on a regular basis.

4<sup>th</sup> team player of the year went to one of the more experienced members of the team Jon Wells. He turned in consistent performances week in, week out, helped to keep the goals against column down and provided an old head and guiding hand for Mr Kirkman and Alton in defence. The season hasn't be pain free, the curse of the captains struck and yours truly missed the season's run in, Mr Wells and Kirkman swapped places in the A&E department at the QMC and Mr Berry has had numerous visits to the dentist following an incident with one of his own players. Finally a special thank you must go to Mr

Dibley, whose car proved invaluable for away matches and who week in week out put himself through the pleasure, pain, wind and the rain to watch his son Dibbles miss a hatful of chances but somehow become our top scorer with 17 goals. So the 4<sup>th</sup> team amassed 20 points, something Derby can only dream of. Mr Ex president.

#### **l) 4th XI Ladies – Carey Savage**

##### **P20 W6 D2 L12 F15 A55 Pts 20 Seventh**

We've had an interesting season; being a new team we have seen a number of changes in the line up and as such have played games which have had a variety of outcomes. It's always worth coming to watch us – you never quite know what's going to happen or who will be making a guest appearance in goal! We are all looking forward to playing next season and hope that we will see more consistency. It's my first season here (as it is for many of the 4s) and I would like to thank everyone in the club (on behalf of the 4s) for making us all feel so welcome. A big thank you goes to Jen Garnham, who captains the team on the day, due to the fact I don't really know how to play yet (and many of us are still learning the rules)! Emma (Whittle) has also played the second part of the season and we have greatly appreciated her support and guidance. I would also like to thank all the players in the 4s for making it so easy (most of the time) to sort out the team and for being such a great group of people

The Ladies 4s had three contenders for player of the season but Lindsay White won it by just one vote in the end! We have had some good results over the season but have suffered some dreadful defeats too (often in Artic conditions) but we take these to be character building, learn from them and I'm sure that we'll continue to improve. We wouldn't have had such a successful season had it not been for the commitment of our team of coaches. Thanks to Neil Stephens for leading the coaching this season with help from Jed Mills (thank you, Jed). Thanks Chris Berry for leading sessions in the second half of the season and finally to Tom Barratt, who has helped at training. Not forgetting our guest coaches/helpers – Faye, Loz, Izzy & Averil! Lastly, but by no means least the Umpires. A massive thanks to everyone who has umpired for us this season, in particular Rob Green who umpired 7 of our games (we only played 18); Rich Bonsall who did 3 and Izzy who did 2. Sorry if I missed anyone out!

#### **m) 5th XI Mens –Geoff Bail**

##### **P22 W14 D3 L5 F101 A41 Pts 45 Third and promoted**

Finished 3rd PROMOTED. After gaining promotion last season but not going up it was almost deja vue this season, with a VERY experienced if slowing team playing below their weight – literally.... One of the hardest things to do is to maintain team spirit in a team that is struggling, and oddly enough it isn't much easier to do it in a team which is winning every game – as it is all too easy to perform to the level of the opposition. For me that is never an option so my own season was blighted by continually trying to raise our game to a level I knew we could reach but seldom did, and by NOT LOSING. Not losing does become a bete noir, and after we did lose our first match, which we should have won easily, we knew that the main opposition for the season would be mainly ourselves.

Our best performances – as usual against the best sides and of course the 2 Beeston teams in the league. Lowlights – some un-generous reaction to our own umpires when we were playing poorly. Saying that we were frustrated does not condone it. Highlights of the season:

1. Beating Beeston 5s AWAY! Old V young – good contest.
2. A good curry night for the team –went to the Jewel again though!
3. Beating Belper away with my son Jamie standing in to make a bare 11, coming back from 3 – 1 down.
4. Good to see a number of experienced players enjoying their hockey in a fairly relaxed fashion.
5. Actually looking forward to the season in the PREM where we will need to be better and fitter – no excuses this time...

Thanks to all who played, the list is basically the list of members in the handbook - to all the Team Captains and Bob for their support throughout the season, and especially Nick Hemm for providing players at the last minute. Finally I must thank all who umpired for us at home. We have the best tradition of fairness in our umpiring, and long may that last. Finally + 1, thanks must go to Derek for providing a fabulous bar and great beer, the best place to return to after another victory.

#### **n) 6th XI Mens –Nick Hemm**

##### **P22 W8 D3 L11 F59 A59 Pts 27 Eighth**

We ended 8th, not quite mid table 5th from the bottom, when 4 go down really puts it in perspective, although unusually we were safe about 3 games from the end, being 11 points clear of relegation. We had a good season, using over 40 players but first thanks to the backbone of the side Pete who has helped me out a lot, thanks to him we even have a team warm up now, and it was thanks to him captaining the side that I could go and watch the spice girls opening concert! Continuing the thanks to Adam who has become a new man at the top of the various polygonomic formations I've adopted. Also thanks to my Mr Utility Martin who played in every position apart from keeper, although he has no idea how close he came. Thanks go also to the clubs 3rd highest scorer Mark, without his goals we would have struggled. Although we are a development side, many of our youngsters moved to the 4ths or pinched by beeston (bees are disappearing across Britain fingers crossed eh) so we ended up being the oldest team of youngsters ever. However both Bens Hall and Withers were good youngsters who played well all season but I think Henrick deserves special mention since he made the most progress over the season, and annoyed our 5<sup>th</sup> team on both games.

We had several memorable games although you'll be pleased to hear I have a terrible memory so this bits not that long. Both beeston sides were a great challenge we drew one, robbed only by a foul goal right near the end, and we lost another simply due to me being too old and knackered to tackle right near the end. We had great fun beating Chesterfield 10 -0 when they had drawn 1-1 with our 5th the week before. But our best performance by far was our first game v 5ths. We expected a good thrashing so planned accordingly, massed ranks in midfield, a diamond come pentagon! All designed to frustrate the opposition, not pretty hockey, more snuff hockey. Now at half time we were still in it so to encourage our troops I said I would buy a drink for everyone if we drew, no problem, no cost nice gesture! Then we scored! 3-3 to us and won not in the stars, it

cost me a fortune in the bar. How do you find your way to away games? How did we do it years ago!!!! That was the question when I forgot to print off directions and maps from the internet! Someone will know, no they didn't then joy two players had sat navs

they could take in our cars, no problem then except our nice lady didn't notice Loughborough Road Island! Ok till we got within 500m of our destination then they had a disagreement and went opposite ways, we were 500m away for some time.

Next season Steve has organised some sponsorship for our team body shop shower gel, I know one player who will be happy, I am getting old and times have changed, but we have a player who happily gets out several products in the changing rooms and was disappointed that there is no where to plug in his hair dryer, roll on next year!

#### **o) 7th XI –Richard Bonsall**

##### **P20 W9 D3 L8 F47 A40 Pts 30 Fifth**

Unfortunately I am unable to say that this season has been as good as the dizzying heights of promotion last season. Without trying to make too many excuses we knew that it would be difficult to replicate our achievements as we lost a number of our better players at the beginning of the season when they were quite rightly promoted up the club. Nevertheless we retained the core of the team that played last season and this ensured that we were in the end to finish mid table in fifth. The main difference between last season and this season unfortunately was that last year when we played badly we still somehow managed to get a victory whereas this season when we played badly we would more often than not lose.

The season actually started brightly with 4 wins and a draw out of the first five games with a superb last minute come from behind win against the cocky Loughborough Town/Students 4ths. After this we went on a poor run losing 3 out of the next 4 games to then bounce back with a win against the 8ths. The poor run wasn't helped by the fact that Bob was injured for most of November and then his replacement Rich Ives was put out of action by the flying stick of his own team mate Dave Mann. The second half of the season was more of mixed bag with the 3-4 loss at North Notts being probably one of our best performances this season and in the end one of the most disappointing results. Indeed the standard of our performances throughout the season was one of the great mysteries as for some reason as a team we simply could not normally play to the standard we should have been able to. Despite this we still had on the whole a reasonable season and hopefully we will be able to improve next year.

One of the most pleasing thing this season has been the performance of Dominik Halter who came into the side after Christmas from the grizzlies and since then has gone from strength to strength and is definitely one to watch for the future. As usual the sevenths have used a large number of players over the course of the season with only one player, me, playing in every league game with Clive Harrison next on 19 appearances. It must also be mentioned that for the first half of the season we didn't have a regular keeper and it was only when Aidan Beaumont came back that we finally had a regular keeper so also thanks to Aidan for doing a storming job after Christmas. We also ensured that the goals were once again spread amongst the team with me top scoring on 12 followed by Bob Douglas and Richard Ives on 6 and Dave Ryan on 5. Can I also just thank everyone who has played for the sevenths this season and hopefully they have all enjoyed the experience and will play next season.

#### **p) 8th XI – Jon Clewes on behalf of James Carter**

##### **P20 W3 D1 L16 F27 A76 Pts 10 Eleventh and relegated**

Well, firstly I should state that Tony Johnson didn't fully explain this captaincy lark to me, he never mentioned this speech for example - he also failed to explain the true magnitude of this statement 'this season could prove a bit tricky for us'... tricky really didn't sum it up. So our season report...

As usual the eighth team have struggled to maintain a consistent line up and like other teams in the men's have struggled to find that all important midfield maestro. This struggle has translated to us playing some rather interesting styles of hockey including a pentagon system in the midfield which, and I think I'm quoting Doug here, "as something I have never seen before" - but this was one of the games we actually managed to win! The eighths as many of you know have had a torrid season, having picked up just 3 wins; Burton \*2, South Notts\*1 and a single draw against Players - "a bit tricky" indeed! The team has basically struggled for consistency despite having some reasonable quality players including Pete Brewill, Matt Cullen and Oli Wheatcroft - for those that have played them in the mid week hockey that has been taking place this year you will know they could all player higher on our club. So we have struggled in the main due to poor fitness, inconsistent line ups which have contributed to some of our games being played as a group of individuals. Challenges I'm sure that plagues all of us, but I'm afraid they were challenges too far for this captain. The highlights for us then were clearly our three wins and the time we have spent together by the bar consoling our losses. Our top scorer is Pete Brewill, and he probably scored the best goal, the best save however has to go to Kev O'Donnell for a mid air save when standing in as "kicking back" after our GK tore his pectoral and fractured some ribs earlier in the game! We hope to do better on the field next year, in a league that is probably better suited to our qualities and have a more positive end of year report for you then.

#### **q) 9th XI – Brian Jones**

##### **P18 W11 D5 L2 F42 A16 Pts 38 Second and promoted**

This season some very young and some very old players (37 in total) have represented the bottom team in the Club. Our results at first were a little disappointing with too many goals being conceded but as the year went on, the defence became a much stronger unit. Unfortunately our attack never found goal scoring easy and therefore could not dominate teams like we did a year ago. (Top scorers were Chris Garnham and Jamie Bail both with 6)

Highlights of the season was the improvement of our kids, especially the goalkeeper, seeing Derek over lapping in a passing movement and scoring....although it did take him 2 hours and 9 pints to recover. Low point was travelling to Chesterfield for a 5 o'clock start only to arrive to find it had been cancelled 5 days earlier and they had forgotten to tell us.

Finally I would like to thank all who have played for me this season, especially my computer man Clive, Jimmy 'my legs will be better' Cashmore, Chris 'I'll have to ask Jenny' Garnham and Steve 'I'm not playing if County go down' LeMottee

#### **r) Indoor – Charlie Wright on behalf of Ian Johnson**

For the first time for a long time, probably since the legendary Dave Ellis (what an act to follow!) organised an indoor side, Bridgford Men went to the Midlands' qualifiers for the National Indoor Championships. We took a young side: Tom Barratt, Tom Lambourne Tom Newman, Dave Fasey, Dan Hammond, Nat Hammond, Todd Mills, Jed Mills, Will Good, and Charlie, Wardy and Berry. After a long drive to Kidderminster we rolled up to find out that Mansfield hadn't turned up. What a great club. Playing record won 2, drew 1 and lost 1, including beating National League opposition from Belper. We played some really good stuff (considering I had only managed to organise one practise session), ably led by Charlie Wright. We probably could have got through to the final but in the last game the senior players and I went with our original decision to give everyone more of a game and it wasn't to be. Thanks to top scorer Todd, some excellent keeping from Wardy and Berry, the students who got up before 12am, the youngsters for travelling and getting valuable experience and finally Mr Utility Hammond

As a club I would strongly recommend that we enter again next season as the First team league season may be finished to accommodate it. It is good to see the club represented at that level and skill acquisition and experience gained can only be beneficial. I would propose that we elect Charlie Wright as Indoor captain with a vice captain to help out with admin

#### **s) Veterans – Jon Clewes**

Entered the National Vets Cup and had one bye and then played in next round under guidance of Tony Johnson and lost 3-2 away at Lincoln with an experienced (OK old) side. Entered plate, had one bye and then travelled away to Bowden in Manchester for a good game played in good spirits but lost. I will lead you to glory next season.

#### **q) Junior Boys - Bob Douglas**

- Sunday numbers maintained/slightly up on last year;
- Loads of juniors playing through all the club sides, as last year so many are available that we've had to arrange extra games so that we can keep as many as possible involved;
- Lots of juniors at county trials, in county teams, slightly less in Mids, well done to all;
- Took part in loads of friendlies – U11, U13 – although quite a few cry offs from other clubs;
- U11/U13 semi finals in minis, girls U11 came 5th; U15 not very strong, not doing well in Notts league, knocked out of EH Cup by Beeston, got to last 16 of Plate but only courtesy of a bye and a cry off and lost to Norwich; U18 knocked out of Cup by Rutland, now in semi final of Plate this coming Sunday v Havant;
- Massive thank you to all who helped on Sundays and managing teams, especially:
  - Clive and Pete who between them carried full responsibility for running the U11s;
  - Phil who coached the older group most weeks and Glyn who filled in when he wasn't around;
  - Mark Carroll who took on the gk coaching and made it more challenging/interesting for the keepers;
  - Parent helpers, esp Alistair (Hunt) and Steve (Thompson);
  - Team Managers, some of the above plus (mainly) Brian and Glyn;
  - The younger members who have contributed, esp Anna, Tom Cains and Tom Kirkman
- Highs – seeing the progress made by juniors on Saturdays, especially those coming through the 4ths ie Tom K, Phil, Sam Alton, Joe Davis, Chris Dibley, Ben Withers;
- Lows – weakness at U15 resulting in poor results and also our decision to not comply with the EH rules – and subsequent failure to obtain Clubs First despite Sharon and Rachael having put together an excellent portfolio;
- Next year we are looking to improve the structure of Sunday coaching and to better link it to Monday evenings – this will inevitably lead to requirement for more coaches!

#### **p) Junior Girls – Rachel Fell**

- Number of girls transferring (or still participating in both!) from Sunday sessions to Wednesday evenings.
- Total 32 U18 registered with club
- Total 20 playing in Ladies league Teams 1– 4.
- 24 U15 registered on Wed nights, regular 16/17 attendees.
- 6 U15 got into the Notts Development squad
- 4 U15 got into County squad (not lost any of the girls this year to other clubs!)
- Good results in the NoDe U14 Sunday league
- Amy Matharu -3<sup>rd</sup> team Player of Year
- Max Cowley – Most Improved Player of Year
- Alice Howells – Junior Player of Year

Thanks to Helen Brown, Lindsey McDonnell & Zena Oliver for helping coach this year. Thanks to Liz Archer for booking pitches for NoDe. Thanks to Jon Clewes for umpiring NoDe. Thanks to Faye for helping out at the successful England Hockey visit.

#### **5. Club Awards**

John Bassford Trophy for highest goal scorer  
Roy Barlow Trophy for most promising schoolboy  
Dave Nicholas Trophy for the most improved player  
Arthur Sandford Memorial Trophy for 1st Team Player

Ben Rivett  
Phil Ebsworth  
John Abba  
Paul Sibley

A Vennett-Smith Trophy for the Player of the Year  
 Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team player of season  
 Ladies 2nd team player of season  
 Ladies 3rd team player of season  
 Ladies 4th team player of season  
 Most improved player from Ladies  
 Junior girl player of season  
 Top ladies goal scorer  
 WBMHC Trophy – Personality of the Year

Phil Elliott  
 Faye Wilkinson/Kirsty Berridge  
 Alice Lineker  
 Amy Matharu  
 Linzie White  
 Max Cowley  
 Alice Howells  
 Faye Wilkinson  
 Rachel Fell

## 6. Election of Club Captains for 2008/2009 Season

President – Jon Clewes. This year comes from ladies side, been with Monarchs for 10 yrs and has worked very hard with the Junior girls and on ClubsFirst. A former captain, enthusiastic Committee member and regular at social events. It is well deserved and she is a credit to the Club. So, with no further ado I am very pleased to be able to announce that our president for 2008 – 2009 season is Rachel Fell

New President – Rachel Fell thanked the Club for electing her as President and her manifesto was to see the Club go from strength to strength throughout all its sides, to show great leadership and to get ClubsFirst next season

Life Membership – Doug Stuart was unanimously proposed as Life Member

Vice Presidents – Existing VPs re-elected en-bloc together with Jon Clewes

### Team Captains

Mens 1st Team	Dave Sandercock Doug Stuart will stand as manager
Mens 2nd Team	Ali McIntosh
Mens 3rd Team	Ben Lambourne
Mens 4th Team	Mark Johnson
Mens 5th Team	Geoff Bail
Mens 6th Team	Nick Hemm
Mens 7th Team	Richard Bonsall
Mens 8th Team	James Carter
Mens 9th Team	Brian Jones
Ladies 1sts	Faye Wilkinson
Ladies 2nds	Liz Archer
Ladies 3rds	Leanne Savage
Ladies 4ths	Carey Savage
Veterans	Jon Clewes
Fixture Sec	Mark Johnson/ Claire BrandoWhite
Ground Sec.	Tony Johnson
Umpire Sec.	Ian Johnson

Thanks for their hard work to all members who have retired from their positions and congratulations to the new members

The following were elected as officers for 2008/2009 season:

		PROPOSER	SECONDER
Chairman	Geoff Bail	Andrew Barker	Tony Johnson
Secretary	Martin Ebsworth Naomi Boulter	Richard Cooper Faye Wilkinson	Sean Gauton Isabel Stanton
Treasurer	James Cashmore	Andrew Barker	Richard Cooper
Social Sec.	Liz Archer Andy McCarroll	Fiona Taylor Richard Cooper	Geoff Bail Jon Clewes
Junior Organiser	Bob Douglas TBA	Sharon Cheetham	Ian Johnson
Club Welfare Officer	Rachel Fell	Geoff Bail	Bob Douglas
Bar Organiser	Derek Wise	Richard Cooper	Glyn Abba
Committee	Richard Cooper Fiona Taylor Jon Clewes TBA	Tony Johnson Naomi Boulter Jon Woodrow	Geoff Bail Doug Stuart Doug Stuart
Auditors	Charlie Orchard Dave Allison	James Cashmore James Cashmore	Bob Douglas Bob Douglas

Clubhouse Manager      Although not an official position, Mike Drinkwater with assistance from Martin Ebsworth

### 7) Development – Martin Ebsworth

- Clubhouse is generally in good repair and decoration with Mike D, Derek and Martin doing odd maintenance and servicing jobs on alarms, electrics etc
- The car-park behind the fire station is being fenced off and will now not be available. Members are requested to either leave cars at home or if not park sensibly on local roads and not blocking in residents
- We have approval from the School to the installation of dug-outs and a spectator area to get non-players off the pitch to improve safety at side of pitch. This will have to be done at Clubs expense but we will be looking into any grants with works planned during this summer 2008
- Whilst the pitch is playing reasonably well, it is getting towards the end of its life. We have had discussions with the School and it is generally agreed that we will all work towards the long term refurbishment and extension lengthways of the pitch with works during the summer of 2009. The School is likely to pay for the replacement carpet, but any costs of extension works or upgrade in surface will have to be met by the Club through grants or fund raising. Watch this space.
- Question was raised about Health and Safety with balls being hit over fence onto football field behind which was now being used on regular basis

### 8) Any Other Business

- NHA AGM on 7 May 2008
- MRHA AGM on 14 May 2008
- Beeston Minis on 15 June 2008
- Notts Varsity hockey match on 24 April at Highfields in evening
- Club was committed to re-applying for Clubs First next season
- Could captains please hand in their first aid kits

### The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

The first committee meeting will be held on 12th May 2008 Venue to be decided but likely Globe

A McCarroll	G Abba	M Barnes	R Cooper	Boo Smith	Lucy Pyle
B Douglas	G Bail	M Ebsworth	S Middleton	Carey Savage	Liz Archer
B Lambourne	I Ward	M Johnson	S Gauton	Claire BrandonWhite	Leanne Savage
B Jones	I Tunstall	N Hemm	S Green	Faye Wilkinson	Liz Burrell
C Notman	J Clewes	P Davis	T Mills	Helen Brown	Lauren Hemm
C Wright	J Woodrow	P Elliott	T Johnson	Kirsty Berridge	Naomi Boulter
D Hammond	J Anderton	P Sibley		Fiona Taylor	Sharon Cheetham
D Stuart	J Gilbert	P Bonnett			
D Wise	J Cashmore	R Bonsall			
E Binder	M Berry	R Shaw			

APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>    ATTENDANCE    LIST