

WEST BRIDGFORD MENS HOCKEY CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Wednesday 29th April 2009

President Rachel Fell chaired the meeting. 54 members in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Glyn Abba, Malcolm Baker, Sharon Cheetham, Bob Douglas, Liz Archer, Tim Roberts, Dan Hammond, Lauren Hemm, Gemma Telford, John Anderton, Lyndsay White, Emma Newcombe, Kirsty Berridge, Dave Ryan, James Carter.

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 – Rachael Fell

I'm sure it came as much as a surprise to you all just as it did to me to be honoured with the title of President this year. When John Clewes first called I presumed he'd had one too many of Bob's fine ales but I soon realised he was deadly serious. When asked what it entailed, John replied not much work but you'll have to buy lots of beer. This was obviously a concern for me being a tight Yorkshire farmer's daughter and also because I knew just how much beer these guys can drink!

I have had a fantastic year both on the pitch and off the pitch. There has been 3 historical moments in the clubs history this year and I am proud to have been involved in all of these as well as many of you here tonight. I'm sure Geoff will be reviewing the achievements of this season in his report but the 2 I would like to mention to start with is Clubs First. It was a huge landmark to gain the status as a Sport England Clubs First accredited club and one that we all should be proud of. As with all achievements and inspections standards have to be maintained and we must continue to abide by the Clubs First standards and ensure the club remains a happy and safe place for U18's to participate in quality coaching and play hockey.

Secondly, I cannot end my presidential year without congratulating the ladies 1st team on winning the double and taking the ladies to a league where we have never gone before. Congratulations to all the team and especially to our Club Personality of the Year, Paul Sibley, for dealing with the PMT, nagging and explicit ladies chat twice a week.

On that note, I would also like to thank everyone who has played there part in making this year a huge success including all coaches, captains, umpires and the committee members who do the hard work behind the scenes to ensure the club remains a fantastic place to socialise and play hockey.

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 – I am sure that the combined AGM has helped forge a stronger tie within the Club, and, with the excellent Presidential year that Rachael has had, we now have a much more homogenous Club, the fruits of this will be noticed in various registry offices and Churches during the Summer.

CLUB PLAYING HEALTH CHECK - There is no doubt that we have had a tough year on the field – from the heady heights of the Ladies 1st team winning both promotion and the Cup, to relegation of the 5th and 6th Mens and 4th team ladies, we will have a number of challenges ahead. What is apparent though is the grit and determination that all our teams have shown this season, a real fighting spirit which has meant that despite our problems results wise we never give up. I am sure that the new developments will attract new members during the Summer, and that we will continue to strive for the best standard of hockey .

CLUB GENERAL HEALTH CHECK - I don't know if it is just me, but I have noticed a real buzz about the Club this season. The really important things that have happened for me are:

1. Meeting the Head of the School last year and coming away with a fast track proposal to lay the new pitch this Spring – we were expecting another 2 years at least with the old pitch.
2. Going to the Members with a no-nonsense fund raising proposal which proved to be a great success, thanks to Martin for the idea and to Nick Hemm for his inspired marketing campaign (and the Schools colour copier!).
3. The award of ClubsFirst – a presentation by Zoe Rogers to President Rachael Fell on a cold Sunday morning was inspiring.
4. A chance meeting with the Rushcliffe Sports Development Team will hopefully lead to funding for us to develop hockey training with the local feeder Primary schools starting in September.
5. A brilliant season as President by Rachael who has really helped bring the Club together.

SOCIAL EVENTS - Another good year with record bar profits? – all the usual activities were evident, but we will be looking at ringing the changes next season so any ideas please. Thanks to Liz and Andy for another seasons hard work, probably one of the hardest Club posts to have.

TOURNAMENT - Great weather, for a change, a slimmed down tournament just about summed up the Club this season, great hockey, great people, good food and drink and a brilliant atmosphere. Nobody does it better.

PITCH DEVELOPMENTS - As the bulldozers move in we need to reflect on how we got it and where it will take us. Martin has been instrumental in pushing the project forward this year, both in leading the School expertly towards what we wanted, and in raising the money that we needed to fulfil our part of the deal. Club members put their money where their hearts were to raise over £16,000 by Christmas, as we had to prove to the School that we had the funds. Thanks to everyone who contributed. Martin then organised a series of grants totalling in excess of £45,000 which means that we have the funds needed

without having to draw on our reserves. The new dugouts have been a great transitional addition, the new spectator area seeming to open up the pitch making it feel larger and more friendly. With the new surface we will have an excellent facility. The new pitch will no doubt attract new players to the Club. We should encourage this as we always have selection problems during the season, and need a larger pool of players. We are an inclusive hockey Club who believe that the sport is for players of all abilities, if you want to play hockey then that is what we are about.

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.

Special mention must be made about Bobs work as chair of mens selection for over 21 years. He is standing down next season, so I would like to thank him for all his wisdom and knowledge, which has meant more to the Club than we can quantify.

c) Treasurer - James Cashmore

Accounts for the season were presented to the meeting showing the continuing success of Club.

- 1) Bar takings were very slightly ahead of last year but still set a new record although price of pint has gone up
- 2) Kit for re-sale down as did not have to give out many of the new shirts
- 3) Debtors £18,595 as we have paid some money upfront to School re pitch
- 4) Better Insurance Policy obtained at very slightly higher premium
- 5) Utility prices have gone up in general
- 6) Interest on accounts has fallen due to rates
- 7) Dug-out costs being depreciated over 3 years
- 8) Still adding £3,200 to sinking fund
- 9) Pitch costs in accounts. Costs less grants/donations so net cost to Club is £6,221

On behalf of the Committee, James proposed that annual subs remain at £60, seconded Mark Carroll. Carried.

d) Social Secretary – Andy McCarroll

There were the usual selection of social events through the season. The end of season dinner dance was held at the Albert Hall again, and ran smoothly, although a small loss was made with approx 120 attending. There were two curry and quizzes, which were as successful as ever, so thanks to Coops and Geoff, plus the team of helpers. The race night at the start of the season was financially successful, partly due to the generous sponsorship of a number of local businesses, although given the good feedback and enthusiasm after the previous years race night, the attendance was not as good as had been hoped. For the second year, there was a written quiz at Christmas, which seemed to do its job and keep a few people entertained and in the bar for a while. Any suggestions for possible events next year would be gratefully received and considered. Of course, the main social aspect of the club is not the events but the atmosphere generated around the club, and for that we can thank everyone, especially, of course, Derek for running such a good bar, which received due recognition this season.

e) 1st XI Mens – Paul Sibley

P22 W6 D7 L9 F66 A70 Pts 25 Eighth

The 2008/09 season can truly be described as a rollercoaster of a season with more ups and downs than a day trip to London. Ups this season were, the emergence of a younger looking first team – Barratt, Fizz and Curtis providing the youth and Mills providing the toys to entertain them with. Balsa wood Dave was back playing sooner than expected and the students seem to burst into life with the arrival of a girlfriend. Wardy managed to plug the gap down to his right hand post and the team proved hard to beat by finishing the season unbeaten in 5 Games.

Downs this season were; the turnout at training – the Larwood was clearly too much of a lure, the fact the frontline of the team were as friendly with one another as a day trip to London, the effect our performances had on Pagey's heart and our form at the end of the season meant, whilst not often beaten, we only won 1 of our last 8 Games!

We started the season with early promise and had some decent results especially against the top 4 teams – we even managed to thump a very pleasant Chesterfield 6 – 1 with Millsy getting their aggressive centre-back a red card for an impressive Drogba on ice impression. The First game of the season saw us throw away 3 goal lead to draw with Worcester 5-5 which would turn out to be the blueprint of the season. Millsy was scoring goals galore, but despite some very impressive performances against the top 4 sides we let ourselves down against some of the lesser teams and by xmas our rear ends were twitching like a rabbit's nose. Xmas time saw Sandercock return to the fold and even finish a whole game, Pagey unfortunately had to stop playing after a medical condition and we wish him a speedy recovery, Lewis decided he needed to up his yellow card quota and the first team began to feel the pressure of a possible relegation being coupled with a brand new pitch.

Immediately after xmas however our form picked up and we won 3 games on the bounce to spring board our survival push. We were then sent crashing back to earth after the worst performance of our hockey career – losing 7 – 0 to chesterfield. Revenge for Chesterfields centre-back. We rallied after this however and managed to throw away some promising leads on more than one occasion to snatch a draw from the jaws of victory on no less than 6 occasions – the extra 12 points would have seen us finish 4th above Olton who were the only team we did the double over this year.

Barratt had a very good debut season, Wardy sorted out his gap and claimed player of the year, Lewis was truly a bad boy this year on and off the pitch and somehow got engaged, Hammond was an unsung hero this season, Colly was on fire from the left scoring more than he ever has done before, Sandercock is playing again and remained injury free (touchwood), Fasey found his drag flicks and the worst miss of the season, Sibbo was overweight, Newman plugged various gaps very well, Fizz embarrassed us all with his commitment and skill and discovered Hooters, Berman took up football, Mills upset everybody -

umpires, opposition, teammates, managers, supporters, himself, Ando rediscovered his touch and back pain, Jabba just felt like running, Curtis played on a different planet, Tunno popped up on occasion and Doug had complete faith in us all season.

Comedy Management Moment of season came away at North Staffs when post-game Doug strode through their clubhouse brandishing a large baguette – “I have brought my own sandwich this year because I remember how crap they were last season!” he announced as we all cringed when suddenly their Captain announced “Your Chinese take away teas are here chaps tuck in!” as we quickly devoured the best teas of the season – MOM that game was Doug’s Sandwich.

Best game of the season – The 4-2 win over Khalsa at home was our best performance but the best feeling was beating Mansfield 3-2 after our dear friend Glen missed a flick.

Worst Game of the season – Where to start! – Any of the 6 games where we drew after throwing a lead away, losing so badly to Mansfield at home after being 2-0 up or being spanked at Chesterfield 7-0 after doing a round trip of 300 miles from a 60th wedding anniversary in Wales!

Toys thrown 156, Friends Made – 0, Number of times Doug Swore – 22,356. Finished – 8th in League, Should have finished 3rd. One word to sum up our season – Draw

Next seasons prediction – Top 4 if we get a couple of players, If we don’t we will finish 9th.

Doug thanked Sibbo for captaining the side on and off the pitch, for Dave Sandercock for doing training and regular supporters especially Malcolm Baker and Dave Allison. Next season, need commitment from players especially at training

f) 1sts XI Ladies – Faye Wilkinson

P18 W14 D3 L1 F59 A26 Pts 45 First and Champions

This season for the ladies first team can only be described as awesome. With the joining of Highfields and Beeston we expected them to walk the title, but after beating them on our fifth game of the season we knew we were in with a chance of the league. Sibbo was looking forward to a strong season and wanted revenge for just missing out on both the Cup and League the previous season.

All season we only lost one which was disappointing but didn’t matter luckily in the end, we drew three and won a staggering fourteen, which was a record for the Ladies ones! The team hardly changed all year, and with some experienced players, younger players, the return of Nay and a couple of new players we managed to play some excellent hockey. Highlights of the year were the goalkeeper Millie, who was amazing and consequently won the player of the season. Helen also got highest goalscorer in the ladies awards.

After celebrating the league victory in style at the end of season awards, our job wasn’t finished, the following day we had to win the cup final! After a painful start and a tense golden goal period we finally got a goal and ended the dream for Aztecs!! Finally on the same day as the end of season tournament we took a trip to Wolverhampton to see what the competition was like for next year. Although we didn’t win any matches we did very well against teams that all played in leagues higher than ourselves and its definitely given us a boost for next year. Thanks again to Sibbo, Dave Kingston and the men from committee who helped us out with umpires.

g) 2nd XI Mens – Ali McIntosh

P22 W5 D4 L13 F55 A85 Pts 19 Eighth

The 2008/9 season was a tricky one indeed. Having lost a number of players including regular goal machine Jed Mills, midfield dynamo Danny Lynham and defensive.....comedy relief Alex Stannard, it was always going to be a season of transition. Our home form was the key, picking up 5 of our 6 victories here. Away from home our lack of confidence and a lack of strength of depth at the top end of the club showed and we struggled in what was a very strong division.

Again we had a fairly easy series of games in the National Trophy until the quarter final where we played Didsbury away. The decision was made to ensure a good, team building night was had by all - which was! The game was lost 4-3 on a golden goal but the weekend served its purpose as it was followed by wins against Leek, Telford, Bournville and a draw against Stourport which secured our status in the top flight, finishing 8th in the end.

As ever the 2nd XI spirit was vital in our successes. The concern over a lack of players pushing for inclusion in the 2nd XI will need to be rectified with the more promising youngsters still a couple of seasons away from being ready but there is still a good core of regular players around next year which is encouraging.

h) 2nd XI Ladies – Sarah Aaron on behalf of Liz Archer

P18 W11 D4 L3 F53 A18 Pts 37 Third

Not a bad season overall, finishing a respectable 3rd in the league with a lot of positives to build on next season including the best goal difference in the division, conceding 7 less than anyone else and only scoring 3 less than the league winners, South Notts, the top goal scorers. We had some fabulous results including beat the aforementioned league winners 5-0 and putting a total of 21 goals past the 2 SBU teams. But had a couple of disappointing draws in games where we dominated. The biggest problem we had was not being able to field the same team week in, week out- apparently people have other things to do at the weekend- except Myself and Boo! The player of the season by a long way was Sarah Aaron being consistently solid at centre back and covering sweeper when needed. Other mentions go to Lindsey who scored a very respectable 13 goals. Kaj (Gathani), who was top fantasy league goalkeeper and a star between the post for us, and to our other new comers Gemma (Telford) and (Liz) Abba who came in to the squad and really benefited the team.

Thanks to Dave (Taylder) for coaching us this season and being on the sideline for all but one game and a massive thank you to Sue (Summers) for umpiring every game for us, it really does make it easier knowing that you’ve got an umpire that will turn out every week and put up with all our shouting, moaning and tantrums! It’s a wonder we don’t get more cards! Finally a big thanks to everyone that played in the 2’s this season, whether be for 1 week or every game, I think the spirit and the enjoyment this season has been absolutely brilliant and I’m really looking forward to next season.

i) 3rd XI Mens – Ben Lambourne
P22 W7 D5 L10 F53 A65 Pts 26 Sixth

After the record breaking 30 points in the 2008 season 2009 came with bigger and harder hurdles to climb with our legs being a year older. The four promoted teams were stronger than previous seasons and only 2 of them going back down and only in the last 2 weeks of the campaign. The home displays were as strong as previous years and held our unbeaten home record until after the Christmas break with points from Stourport/Brum Uni and Beeston. Worryingly the away performances weren't as strong and the home points kept us away from the drop zone.

With the bad weather and Harborne not turning up it gave us 3 Sunday games out of 4 which, with out mature legs, many games had to be prioritised and the winnable games given stronger squads and with the plan of getting 3 wins from our last 4 games should keep us safe. We had earmarked Warwick Uni as the must win game and a last minute goal being conceded and with bottom team Belper playing our rivals I decided this meant we couldn't avoid relegation so we could all drown our sorrows instead of worrying about the Harborne game the follow day! The results came in and through my blurry eyes after being refused entry to the casino and leaving Lewy dancing Belper had won their 2nd game of the season and giving us a life line and wins in our last 2 games will give us 26 points and hopefully enough. We managed the 6 points with some strengthening from above and the final day victory at Stourport (3 cheers for WB 2s) gave us our premier div status again next year and without the win at Stourport we would have perished. Thanks to everyone who helped by playing/driving and anything else that helped me out.

j) 3rd XI Ladies – Rachel Fell on behalf of Sharon Cheetham
P18 W12 D3 L3 F58 A11 Pts 39 Fourth

This has been an excellent season for the ladies 3rd team. We missed promotion by one point with one point separating 3 teams. The season started with me as Captain on the pitch and Leanne Savage as Captain on the side line due to bunions!!! In other words Leanne did all the hard work and I just turned up to play. It soon became apparent that it would be a while before Leanne would make it back onto the pitch and so I took on the role of Captain and Mel Limbert Vice-Captain with continued support from Leanne. We have played some fantastic hockey winning 15-0 against Redhill Ladies 3rd team and beating Boots Ladies 3rd team who came top of the table, both home and away. We have played teams which have physically and verbally abused our players both on and off the ball and some of us particularly, Gemma Rolley, have had some pretty impressive bruises to show for it. Player of the year with the most Man of the Match votes was Sara Green and highest goal scorer was Zena Oliver. Other players worth a mention: Eileen (I'm not available this week) Black, Nikki (you don't need me in goal) Salter, Jo (I can't score) Darby, Fi (orienteering) Claxton, Laura (I was at ice-hockey until 1am in the morning) Smith, Sarah (sorry I'm late) Tunney, Zoe (I threw myself off a mini-bus to save a child) Broadfoot, Lucy (tail, udder and props) Blyth, Alice (sprinter) Howell, Lizzie (flexible) Hard.

It has been a pleasure playing with everyone. It has truly been a team effort both on and off the pitch. Thanks to Rich Bonsall for umpiring (even when he was abused by other umpires) and had to speed to his own game afterwards or get up at the crack of dawn!! Thanks to Chris Berry for coaching (with the help of Rich) and supporting us at as many games as possible (and for introductions!!!). Finally, I would just like to say that for me this has been one of the most enjoyable seasons I have spent at the Club which has simply been due to the people. Thank you to everyone who has played for the 3rds your support and kindness has been fantastic. I am looking forward to next season and promotion.

k) 4th XI Mens – Mark Johnson
P22 W10 D3 L9 F60 A40 Pts 33 Eighth

This was yet again another difficult season with the league containing 3 university sides, Cannock, 2 Beeston teams and our very own 5ths. The league has been very competitive with teams taking points off each other, typified by Edgbaston some how beating Birmingham University twice. The early front runners and last year's league champion Beeston 4s faded away due to player issues and rallied towards the end of the season to retain their league status. The title was contested by Birmingham Uni and Cannock who ended up running out league champions.

After Christmas things became slightly harder with the likes of Sutton Coldfield and Stourport doing their level best to stay in the league by any means possible. Stourport bolstered their team and even felt it necessary to bring an umpire under false pretences to both of their away matches at Bridgford. In our match against their 4s we spent more time focusing on their umpire and not the hockey and lost 4 -2. Sutton Coldfield's home record improved markedly after Christmas read in to that what you will. We lost at their place 3 -2, this however was because we shot ourselves in the foot. We managed to get Sutton Coldfield umpires to sin bin 2 of their own players and we took a 2 -1 lead. However when they returned to pitch we carried on playing as if they only had 9 and lost to a late penalty flick.

Due to the bad weather in February and the varied rearrangement dates we ended up reaching the dizzy heights of third in the league but reality soon kicked in and we started to slide down the table looking over our shoulders at the relegation spots. However unlike last season where we went into the last game needing a win to stay up, this season we reached safety with 2 matches of the season to go. Highlights of the season were drawing with Birmingham Uni 0 -0 which doesn't sound like a great deal but when they come with a squad of 16 and we have a bare 11 it was a gritty hard earned point. We beat Beeston 3 times, putting 16 past their 5's in 2 matches without reply and beat their 4th team 3 -0 in their own back yard.

Match of the season was against Edgbaston where we fought from 2 nil down to go 4 -2 up with 5 minutes left only for Edgbaston to draw level. We scored with 30 seconds to go to win 5 -4. Our points tally was evenly split between the 2 halves of the season with our pre Christmas performance being helped by a 5 match unbeaten run up to Christmas where we only conceded 2 goals scored 16 and earned 11 points.

The 4s have seen a change in personnel this season. We lost Jon Wells, last year's player of the season, early in the campaign and he hopes to return next season, Chris Dibley was promoted to the 3s and Dan Roper retired due to personal commitments. We recruited one new player in Rob Davison who would go on to be the club's top goal scorer and a number of players were promoted from the 5ths. Josh Holmes whose reward was an away match at Stourport where we were denied a victory by a dodgy umpiring decision. Martin Ebsworth senior who along with Ebsworth junior volunteered their services for a 10.15am start at Birmingham. Unbeknown to me Phil had forgotten his contacts and his mum was sent searching Birmingham for a spare pair that arrived in the nick of time. A special thanks must go to Richard Smith who played away at Birmingham Uni 3 weeks on the trot for the 3s, 4s and 5s playing at 10.15am twice and a 4.30pm on a Sunday, he must have an understanding wife.

4th team player of the season was a two horse race between Joe Davis and the eventual winner Rob Davison. No doubt both of these players will be playing higher up the club next season.

In summary the 4th team has improved on last year's performance being the club's top league point scorers in the club and second top goal scorers behind the 1st. We finished on 33 points in 8th place, the same position as last year when we stayed up with 20 pts underlining how even and competitive the league was this season.

l) 4th XI Ladies – Carey Savage

P18 W2 D3 L13 F10 A65 Pts 9 Tenth

It's not been the most successful season in terms of points (9) which saw us finish bottom of the league! At least it's a good time for someone else to take over as captain as they can't really do any worse!

The first game of the season was a disastrous start; only 10 players available and no goal keeper. As Sarah [Holmes] was 'ill' that day she offered to play in goal and let in 9 goals (the most goals conceded in a single game this season – or conceived as she calls it!) IN spite of this the remaining 9 players played well and that spirit continued throughout the season.

Notable games were the home 8-1 defeat to Arnold which was very emotional for the 4th team as they (I was at work!) found the physical presence of Arnold quite ruthless and aggressive. The following week we unfortunately lost 8-1 again – this time to University 5s who we got a 3-0 win against on the return (home) fixture – don't get me wrong it helped that they didn't turn up and so conceded a 3-0 defeat but we'll take those points!!!

The home game against Boot was a rearranged game following the snow and we'd have preferred snow to be honest! It rained and rained and our shorts and socks were holding so much water they were falling down! Very funny – again we were beaten by goals but certainly not in spirit

When Newark came to us for the return fixture I imagine they were expecting an easy match but with 11 players (and subs) and a goal keeper we were pleased to hold them to a 0-0 draw!

The last game of the season was a 'must win' – if we won we wouldn't finish bottom...unfortunately due a number of umpiring decisions we lost. I think it's fair to say some of us still aren't over that but we'll sort it next season.

Captain's Awards:

Most goals conceded in a single game – Sarah Holmes (9 against Newark)

Bad role model award – most sarcastic abuse to an umpire - Leanne Savage (Beeston 5a away)

Any goal will do award – most own goals – Lindsay White

Fashion victim award – most interesting headgear – Georgia Dibley

Golden Shinpad award – most time spent on the floor – Hollie Broughton (lost count of times - sorry)

Hit it and mean it award – most bruises to your own players – Anna Notman (many)

And the Oscar goes to...- most emotional performance - Amy Nathan (Arnold – home)

Toys out of the pram award – Carrie Cartwright-Owen (South Notts Away)

Big thank you to Loz [Lauren Hemm] for coaching the 4s this season; sorry we haven't translated our massive improvements into points. Thanks to all volunteers who umpired for us - I know quite often this was late notice as I frantically spent the week searching for help.

The strength of the Juniors coming through is amazing and they're rapidly getting ready for 3rd and even 2nd team hockey – watch out girls 'cause they're coming for your positions!

m) 5th XI Mens –Geoff Bail

P22 W0 D1 L21 F35 A124 Pts 1 Twelfth and relegated

After gaining promotion last season we have performed a first for the Club, a season without a victory. You would be forgiven for interpreting this as a disastrous season for the players, with Saturday after Saturday of doom and gloom, BUT quite the opposite occurred. We have played some excellent hockey against some excellent (not Stourport) teams such as Cannock 4, Loughborough Students and Birmingham Uni 4s, and while we have not won a game we have enjoyed it enormously.

Our team spirit was dampened only once in 22 games when we drove to Edgbaston and didn't perform. Not a word was spoken in the changing room after the game or on the journey home as we all knew that we had let the magic slip through our fingers, but it was back the following week on the same pitch where we had a narrow loss 9 -1 to the brilliant Birmingham Uni side. You had to be there to understand why that made sense.

Our best performance – as usual against the best side, the Cannock captain told me after the game that he thought they were going to lose, but as usual we had no luck. Lowlights – realising that I had the lowest fantasy league value of any player in the history of the game, and that it was time to realise that I am not 18! Highlights of the season:

1 – a great season of good hockey with a great bunch of friends against some great young hockey teams, and

2 - that it was time to realise that I am not 18, and stand aside to allow a younger man to take us forward with enthusiasm.

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 loss.

n) 6th XI Mens –Nick Hemm

P22 W9 D2 L11 F49 A64 Pts 29 Ninth and relegated

Surprisingly enough we had a very enjoyable season but as it turned out it was a disappointing ending. The youngsters grew in confidence as they improved playing some very good free flowing and entertaining hockey along the way. We developed a strong team spirit over the course of the season which led us to have a great time in the end of season tournament since we were able to field a full team for the first time.

I must say a big thanks to all the adults who played with me (so to speak) this season you really can't run a team like this without excellent support so a big thank you to all those who played but particular praise go to Pete Bonnet our warm up man, Martin Johnson our utility man, Adam Bush our top goal scorer, Mark Carroll my coach and Anthony Bullick. Travelling still remains a big problem however. I am believe it or not a very organised captain, before the game I print out the team positions and I organise a rota for substitutions. I even plan a route to the ground but guess what, last years inability to find pitches has continued. I have tried everything! The sat nav took us to a housing estate in Lichfield quite close to the ground as it happens but no cigar! We found out later that it wasn't our fault since the postcode in the handbook is for the secretary's house not the clubhouse! Google maps got us lost in Mansfield! But it's not my fault, honest. I have been trying to sell my house this season which meant that I couldn't make it to an away game at Rugby. As usual Pete took charge saying that there was no problem as he knew where it was! Imagine the scene, I am waiting for my potential buyer when I get a phone call from Pete saying they're at Rugby school it's snow covered and with only 20 minutes to the start there's no one there! Unfortunately the game was at Bilton School in Rugby, they were at the wrong school! I then had to direct them to using Google maps! So there's proof positive it's not me, my team got lost and I wasn't playing! I have since found an easy way to avoid the problem, I follow Mark Carroll who has been to loads of grounds to umpire and unlike me he can actually remember how to get there!

The club has benefited from Sibbos brilliant idea of a fantasy league, but ponder this each captain has now been faced with two leagues to cock up; I will admit that I rose to the challenge and cocked them both up! Thanks Sibbo! Bad decision one I picked me! I was placed 212 out of 224! (If that's not a hint to pack it in I don't know what is!) Bad decision number two was picking last years top goal scorer Mr Illingworth it seemed like a good idea but he finished 63rd compared to Adam Bush who I didn't pick who was 1st! It does go to show how good Adam has become.

We did play some hockey and we had some highs and lows. One of our poorest performances was an away game early in the season at North Notts. They were near the bottom of the league and the youngsters thought it would be an easy game, a rude awakening was quickly dispensed! It was a lesson well learned for all our youngsters. We were met by an aggressive attack and poor umpiring and were quickly over run. We were 3-0 down in a very short space of time and the half time team talk was to avoid injury and come off in one piece! Pay back came on a Sunday later in the season; they brought support courtesy of the Viz magazine and their own umpire just in case ours were biased! I expected a hard game but we beat them 8-1. I think we will meet 2 teams from North Nott's next season, there's something to look forward too!

There was also a very disappointing loss away at Nottingham. They had put together a new side to keep them up, which worked ultimately, but it was without doubt our worse game. Our best game was the last one, which shows how far the youngsters had come over this season. It was v Loughborough Town; they were already promoted but came with a determination to end on a high. To stay up all we needed to do was win by 31 goals against the league champions which did seem rather a tall order before we started but when we were 2-0 down at half time it seemed a very unlikely possibility. However in the second half we played some tizer hockey (it would have been champagne but lots of the team are under 18!) and came back to win 4-3 which was fantastic. Next season look out for these lads for your fantasy league and hopefully they will move up the real teams, (I trust that they will remain BBFL's) The youngsters to watch for are Charlie, David, Dominik, Henrik, Michael, Harry and Fred. Which ever captain gets them next year they won't let you down. So talking of down reminds me that's where we are going, relegated with more points than kept us up last year relegated on goal difference alone. At least we stuck to our principles and kept the youngsters. I have agreed to captain the side again next year although fear not I promise no more song titles!

o) 7th XI –Richard Bonsall

P20 W9 D4 L7 F44 A46 Pts 31 Fifth

During last summer I was warned by Martin that he had been told that there was a good chance that we would be moved sideways from North East 1 into South East 1. I was angered by this as it obviously meant our away games would be on average around 50 miles away and it just seemed unfair that it was us that were being moved. When it was confirmed everyone else in the team had very similar views and we were certain that we would not enjoy it.

However all I can say is that we were wrong. Yes the away journeys have been longer, the umpiring has not always been good and 4.30pm away in Northampton was not a good start time for the first league game of the season but on the whole we have enjoyed it as the standard of hockey has been better and there is no chance of playing North Notts at Manor Park! So on the whole we can safely say we are happy where we are and we do not want to go back to the North East league. I would also have to say that we can be happy with our first season in this league although it was very much a season of ups and downs. For a period near the start of the season we were in fact top of the table but then lost 3 games on the trot and slipped back into mid table where we remained for the rest of the season. One of our main issues was the consistency of our performances. At times during the course of the season we played some really good hockey but we could also play really badly, meaning that you could never be certain which 7th team would turn up.

The best two examples would have to be the first game of the season at Northampton and our last home game of the season against Kettering. At Northampton we were 3-1 down after 20 minutes and the way we were playing made me believe that it would be a heavy defeat. However we then went on to score 6 unanswered goals and won 7-4. On the other hand we were

4-0 up at half time against Kettering and then went on to draw 4-4. To say we were disappointed was an understatement! Although it may not be apparent from those two score lines our other major problem was our goal scoring. We only managed 44 goals which is worse than everyone in the league apart from the 2 relegated teams and no one got into double figures with myself and Richard Ives getting 9 each.

As always a large number of people played for the 7ths over the course of the year with at times 17-18 people supposedly available on the Monday night for the following Saturday. Fortunately that would normally reduce down to about 14 by the time of the game. Amongst the regular adults we had our usual mix of youngsters who came into the side at different points of the season and they could be very pleased with their performances. Some have already moved up to the 6ths and I am sure the rest will be following next season.

p) 8th XI – Jon Clewes on behalf of James Carter
P16 W8 D3 L5 F34 A29 Pts 27 Fourth

Good news for eighths, I think we finished higher than any of the other mens teams - 4th - not quite good enough for promotion although we were close until the last four games.

Highlights were beating Beeston by a three goal margin - twice and having a healthy number of juniors of the team throughout the season, all of which have progressed well under the guidance of Clewes and Lovell. Brewill obviously scored the most goals, I'm convinced on a goals per game ratio he is the top scorer - we only play 18 games and he has made about 15 of them. Clewes was our player of the season and has provided us something quite different for our level - long may he continue to show us the way. Enjoyable on the whole.

q) 9th XI – Brian Jones
P16 W5 D6 L5 F24 A29 Pts 21 Sixth

Usually I stand up here and say how well we have continued to do and that we have won more games than most other teams...but not this season. At least 51 different players have represented the team this season, but unfortunately our results have not been up to the high standards that we have set over the last 20 years. This was mainly due to two factors, namely our adults have become another year older and very prone to injuries, whilst our new youngsters availabilities and their lack of powerful hitting has hindered progress. Next season we are looking for some very fit 35 to 40 year olds, and kids who will make themselves available most weeks. Our youngsters skills have improved this season and it will be interesting to see which team they go onto play in next year.

I would like to thank the QMC for looking after Dave Allison, Clive Notman, Steve Thompson and Alan Kerr, whilst the fairly fit Chris, Steve, Jimmy and Sean keep turning up and listen to my team formations especially when we have either four subs, or three changes on a Saturday morning which was very common. Next year I want the Grizzlies to get back to their winning ways and Everton to win the FA Cup. Ah well we can but dream.

r) Indoor –Ian Johnson

We entered the indoor for the second season running, although had a problem where our coach Charlie Wright ended up playing for Harbourne. We took a number of youngsters but did not struggle and held our own, but did not make the semis. As a club I would strongly recommend that we enter again next season as the First team league season is finished early to accommodate it. It is good to see the club represented at that level and skill acquisition and experience gained can only be beneficial.

s) Veterans – Jon Clewes

Played 3 won one lost two. Disappointing season for the vets. Lost to strong Worcester side in cup, beat Leicester Westleigh in the plate in the snow before losing to Rugby. Always got side out. Stepping down this season don't all cheer

q) Junior Boys - Martin Ebsworth on behalf of Bob Douglas

- Sunday numbers well 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 did creditably in minis; U15 runners up in Notts League, knocked out of EH Cup by Belper; U18 knocked out of Cup by Belper, got to last 16 of Plate, knocked out by Alford;
- Girls training/coaching on Wednesdays going from strength to strength, Rachel will say more on this
- Massive thank you to all who helped on Sundays and managing teams, especially:
 - Pete and Clive who between them carried full responsibility for running the U11s;
 - Ian and Phil who did the same with the older group;
 - 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, Tom Kirkman, Chris Dibley;
 - Rachael and Sharon (and Martin) for all the work done to make sure that we obtained Clubs First;
- Congratulation to Ian and Pete who have both worked hard to obtain Level 2 qualification, we also have a number nominated for the Level 1 course in a few weeks time;

- Highs – obtaining Clubs First and having England international Chloe Rogers present the certificate to us on a cold Sunday morning at Rushcliffe; continued development of promising youngsters in the club, both boys and girls, and their promotion on merit to higher teams (motto, if you think that a junior might be good enough they usually are, we are probably a bit too protective!); improvement in Monday nights with separate sessions for juniors many weeks; development/improvement of younger coaches, eg Liz Abba, Anna Notman, etc; feedback from parents which has been very positive this year;
- Lows – although our junior sides are competitive, we haven't actually won anything for quite a few years and are some way off competing with the likes of Beeston;
- Next year we need to continue with the development of Mondays evenings and get more club members involved in helping to achieve this.

p) Junior Girls – Rachel Fell

- 33 registered (10-17yrs)
- Lots progressing from Sunday morning and some still doing both sessions.
- 9 under 15's playing ladies hockey
- U15's beaten ladies 4's twice
- 7 U15's put forward for County squad. 3 successful, 4 reserves, 1 called up for Midlands squad.
- Lost no juniors to other clubs for 3rd year running
- 4th team Player of Year was a junior player
- Thanks to Liz Abba, Averil, Zena & Lindsey for helping coach and umpire on Sunday leagues.

5. Club Awards

John Bassford Trophy for highest goal scorer	Rob Davison
Roy Barlow Trophy for most promising schoolboy	Dave Bennett
Dave Nicholas Trophy for the most improved player	Tom Barratt
Arthur Sandford Memorial Trophy for 1st Team Player	Ian Ward
A Vennett-Smith Trophy for the Player of the Year	Jon Clewes
Ladies 1st team player of season	Millie Turner
Ladies 2nd team player of season	Sarah Aaron
Ladies 3rd team player of season	Sara Green
Ladies 4th team player of season	Alice Howells
Most improved player from Ladies	Amy Nathan
Junior girl player of season	Alice Cobb
Top ladies goal scorer	Helen Brown/Liz Archer
WBMHC Trophy – Personality of the Year	Paul Sibley

6. Election of Club Captains for 2009/2010 Season

President – Rachel Fell. This gentleman was 4th team captain for about 4 seasons in the 1980s. He was never one to seek the limelight and has shown his commitment to junior development first by playing for many years with Grizzlies (when he could have played at quite a high level), by then moving up into the 6ths (which again has been one of our key teams for developing the juniors). He started coaching as a helper, then gained Level 1 and has gradually taken on more responsibility and worked hard this year to gain Level 2. He is a very good ambassador for the club, having a terrific rapport with the juniors, getting on well with parents and is completely reliable. It is therefore my pleasure to hand over the presidency for 2009-2010 to Pete Bonnett

New President – Pete Bonnett thanked the Club for electing him as President. Thought it was a joke when first rung up by Rachel, but when convinced it was true quickly accepted and a real honour.
Geoff thanked Rachel for all her hard work for Club

Life Membership – Malcolm Baker proposed in writing the following 3 life members and commended them to the Club, which had been seconded by Bob Douglas:

Derek Wise – joined early 70's, and in 70s and 80s was 4XI and Sunday Captain, and ever since then has been Bar Manager who has introduced Real Ale, Beer Festivals, and subsequently achieving 'Club of Excellence Award' from CAMRA and has been a massive fund raiser through bar sales.

James Cashmore – joined early 70's, and has been Treasurer since 1980. Twenty nine years of superb financial control, a job which has grown and become more complex as each year goes by. He quietly and efficiently gets on with it. No mean barman either and in his day a steady player too.

Martin Ebsworth – Joined as a student in 1981, and then rejoined in 1988 when returned back to Nottingham to work. Became secretary from Feb 1991 onwards, and took the lead in interesting School in the Pavilion Project, raising grant finance including Lottery Grant (a huge task on its own), then getting a design spec to fit the available funding, planning, and then co-ordinating

the build together with attendant paperwork, sourcing the furniture at auction, and then the resultant Clubhouse opening. Again he took the lead in getting School on board with pitch renewal, found and obtained grants, helped School with tendering process, including retendering to save costs, and organising the fundraising project within the Club.

Vice Presidents – Existing VPs re-elected en-bloc together with Rachel Fell

Team Captains

Mens 1st Team	Paul Sibley Doug Stuart will stand as manager
Mens 2nd Team	Chris Berry/Ali McIntosh
Mens 3rd Team	Ben Lambourne
Mens 4th Team	Mark Johnson
Mens 5th Team	Phil Elliott
Mens 6th Team	Nick Hemm
Mens 7th Team	Richard Bonsall
Mens 8th Team	Jon Clewes
Mens 9th Team	Brian Jones
Ladies 1sts	Izzy Stanton
Ladies 2nds	Liz Archer
Ladies 3rds	Sharon Cheetham
Ladies 4ths	Lindsay White/Amy Nathan
Veterans	Mark Carroll
Fixture Sec	Mark Johnson/ Claire Brandon-White
Ladies Chair of Selection	Fiona Taylor
Ground Sec.	Tony Johnson
Umpire Sec.	Doug Stuart

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 2009/2010 season:

		PROPOSER	SECONDER
Chairman	Geoff Bail	Mark Carroll	Steve Middleton
Secretary	Martin Ebsworth Naomi Boulter	Richard Cooper Fiona Taylor	Tony Johnson Rachael Fell
Treasurer	James Cashmore	Richard Cooper	Clive Harrison
Social Sec.	Ellie Bowles Andy McCarroll	Naomi Boulter Mark Carroll	Fiona Taylor Ian Page
Junior Organiser	Bob Douglas Liz Abba	Martin Ebsworth Naomi Boulter	Mark Johnson James Cashmore
Club Welfare Officer	Rachel Fell	Geoff Bail	Doug Stuart
Bar Organiser	Derek Wise	Pete Bonnett	Richard Cooper
Committee	Richard Cooper Fiona Taylor Jon Clewes Sarah Aaron	Tony Johnson Naomi Boulter Martin Ebsworth Rachael Fell	Geoff Bail Doug Stuart Doug Stuart Fiona Taylor
Auditors	Charlie Orchard Dave Allison	Martin Ebsworth Martin Ebsworth	Clive Harrison Clive Harrison
Clubhouse Manager	Although not an official position, Mike Drinkwater with assistance from Martin Ebsworth		

7) Development – Martin Ebsworth

CLUBHOUSE - Generally, everything is ok, although have had a couple of problems with roller shutters. Need to start thinking about re-decorating, new carpet, over the next couple of years

RUSHCLIFFE PITCH- We are continuing to put pressure on Parkwood Leisure and Rushcliffe BC to do something about the goals, pitch and general un-tidyness and they are in middle of audit of all-weather pitches in the Borough. There is a new manager at the Centre, who is on our side but main problem is that School use pitch as an unsupervised playground.

DUG-OUTS - At the start of the season, as promised, we installed dug-outs and a spectator area at the pitch. I think it was well appreciated by players, opposition, umpires and spectators and made the pitch look a lot wider and a lot safer. It cost the Club £8,000 and we received a £1,500 grant from East Midlands Airport. Thanks to all those members who came down to help put them together

PITCH - Great News. Works to the pitch started on Monday and are due to finish 17 July

The School, following receipt of 4 tenders, and with full agreement of WBMHC Committee has appointed Charles Lawrence as the contractor for new shockpad, re-carpet and extension of the all weather pitch with inlaid lines at a total cost of £176,957, which, includes at WBMHC request, an extra £30,000 for upgrade of surface to sand-dressed. This will increase the length of

the pitch at tree end by 8.1m (no goal recess) to provide a pitch of 91.4m x 55m. (EHL/FIH size) This will increase run-offs at either end to 4m (currently 2.75m) but will NOT increase the width run-offs as this would require floodlights to be moved

<u>Project</u>		<u>Hockey Club</u>	
School sinking fund	£94,000	NHF(1)	£24,000
School Extra funds	£ 4,737	Rushcliffe	£ 7,000
Hockey Club	£48,220	Buy a square	£16,000
School Upgrade	£10,000	NHF(2)	£15,000
Hockey Club Upgrade	£20,000	CLUB FUNDS	£ 6,220
TOTAL	<u>£176,957</u>	TOTAL	<u>£68,220</u>

Thanks to all members and friends who have contributed their £25, and if anyone feels embarrassed that they have not done their bit, we are still open to further donations. Watch the website for update photos, and looking at official opening on 5 September

Questions – Need goals tidying up and repainting – Committee will look at
 When will pitch be ready for training – Hopefully last week of July
 Will we move everything from Rushcliffe including Juniors and ladies – Yes, but need extra Sat 3.30pm slot

8) Any Other Business

- NHA AGM on 13 May 2009
- MRHA AGM on 20 May 2009
- Beeston Juniors Tournament on 7 June
- England v Australia mens Internationals at Highfields on 10 and 12 June
- EHL Cup Final at Highfields – Beeston v Reading on 16 May
- Club will be doing its 5 year Club Development Plan over the summer
- Could captains please keep tabs on shirts and first aid kits
- Will be doing Training in WB Feeder Schools funded by Rushcliffe Sports Devel Officer
- Doug thanked Bob again for all his help over many years

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

The first committee meeting will be held on 20th May 2009 Venue to be Trent Navigation

A McCarroll	E Binder	M Barnes	P Bonnett	Boo Smith	Leanne Savage
A Marshall	G Bail	M Ebsworth	R Bonsall	Carey Savage	Naomi Boulter
A Macintosh	G Richardson	M Johnson	R Cooper	Claire BrandonWhite	Rachel Fell
B Lambourne	I Ward	M Drinkwater	S Middleton	Ellie Bowles	Sarah Claxton
B Jones	I Johnson	M Carroll	S Gauton	Faye Wilkinson	Sarah Aaron
C Notman	J Flintham	N Hemm	T Johnson	Helen Brown	Susie Heath
C Harrison	J Dixon	P Davis		Fiona Taylor	Theresa Alton
C Garnham	J Clewes	P Elliott		Lee Reynolds	Tracey Marshall
D Mann	J Woodrow	P Sibley		Liz Abba	54
D Stuart	J Cashmore	R Page			
D Wise					

APRIL 29th ATTENDANCE LIST