



WEST BRIDGFORD HOCKEY CLUB



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Thursday 4 May 2017

President Jon Wells chaired the meeting. 36 members in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Andy McCarroll, Glyn Abba, Brian Jones, Dan Hammond, Kirsty Hammond, Chris Garnham, Ellie Howartson, Alex Marshall, Jonty Ebsworth, Mark Carroll, Sara Green, Tony Johnson, Jo Batten, Malcolm Baker, Paul Sibley

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

3. Matters arising – No matters arising

4. Reports

a) President – Jon Wells

This time last year, just before I took Fiona's seat on the top table, I sat looking at the names of the club's past presidents, and really couldn't believe my name was going to be added to such an illustrious list. Now I have a board all to myself! But even now I wonder why I was elected, since what I do for the club, and I'm sure that everyone here also feels the same, I do because I enjoy it. After all, is it not about the team game of hockey and the friends we make along the way? When I say I enjoy it, I mean most of it: umpiring still proves to be daunting on occasions, even with the under 10's, as does pouring a pint of lager without it becoming 90% froth!

I still love playing hockey after nearly 40 years, but what gives me as much pleasure now is my involvement with coaching the junior members of the club. Getting up early on cold, damp Sunday mornings is not always the easiest thing to do – and Bob will only call it off if Hurricane Geoff is passing through – but seeing the same children turn up week-after-week makes it all worthwhile, and this season the numbers have on occasions been nearly overwhelming. But when you realise how many of them stick with us and end up playing in the ladies and men's teams, well, we must be doing something right. Coaching is one thing, but nothing prepares you for managing teams in competitive matches. I hit every ball, mark every player, despair at every miss, and lose both my voice and cool, calm exterior. But it is all worth it when you can see that the team have enjoyed themselves and they remember some of the things you have told them. So I'm happy and proud to report that the under 12's boys played in the Regional Finals last Sunday and reached the semi-finals, unfortunately losing to the old, but far friendlier, enemy across the river. Off the pitch the Quiz with a curry evenings, beer festivals, hockey day (along with a star, a bus and a TV crew), end of season festival and dinner dance were all a success. Thank you to everyone who helped with these events.

I'm not sure whether I've had any impact as a president, but is it just a coincidence that my presidential year saw the GB ladies win an Olympic gold? Or the election of President Trump? And finally, it has been a great honour to have been your club President for the last year, and I wish my successor all the best for next season.

b) Chairman – Geoff Bail

Thanks to our President, and I would say that every President does make a difference. Another hardworking year for the Club in lots of ways, but one that once again has brought out the best in us in the traditional West Bridgford manner.

On the ladies side we have had a good season, and as usual our thanks must go to the experienced ladies who have formed the backbone of each team with the aim of bringing on the new junior players and ensuring rapid development. Alice Linekar as 1st team captain has done a marvellous job over the last few seasons, and with the help of Steve Thompson has rebuilt and then consolidated the team. Sadly she will be leaving us for southern climes, but we have a very competent new captain who will make the job her own. The other ladies teams have also consolidated their positions and above all have developed our juniors and improved the quality of play in all areas. Special mention must go to Louise Walton for an excellent first season as 5th team captain.

On the mens side we have had to deal with the further loss of players from the top end of the Club, to the usual suspects, University and a few to other Clubs. In addition to this annual loss we have found that many players have had erratic availability, some due to injury but many to what might be considered a creeping malaise where commitment to regular hockey has been found wanting. This has resulted in very difficult selection, where captains have been unable to select a settled side from one week to the next. Players have therefore had to move between teams for all the wrong reasons, and often at late notice as players have notified their unavailability late, despite telling captains that they were available on the Saturday. We have frequently had over 30 players unavailable on any given Saturday, and not the same 30 each week! The result has been relegation for a

couple of teams, but we will rebuild.

Our thanks should go to all our captains, who have worked tirelessly to put out the best teams under challenging circumstances, and to the players, many of whom have been asked to step up into higher teams at the last minute, and who have performed brilliantly. Junior development by Bob and the great team of coaches has once again been the engine room of the Club. With few adults coming to play we must grow our own, and we do. So a hearty thanks to all the people who go out on a Sunday morning to bring on the Juniors, it is so vital to our future and to the future of hockey. We have continued to build on the firm foundations that hold up the Club, principles of grass roots amateur hockey for everyone who wants to play, supported by a great bunch of people who are prepared to put in the effort of umpiring, coaching, cooking, organizing, washing up, captaining, inspiring, planning, counting, picking up litter, driving to games, pulling pints, cleaning toilets, mending light fittings, unblocking drains, digging silt off the car park, running the bar, talking to mums, going to meetings. And why do they do it?

Because they love the sport, the Club and their friends. We will carry on doing what we are good at.

THE FUTURE

There are big challenges ahead for the Club. Our key movers and shakers are not getting any younger, and nearly all male. We MUST be thinking of succession planning for our key roles, and I will be pushing hard to encourage members who have enjoyed many years of stress free hockey to start to think of how they might want to put something back into the Club that has given them so much. We must also be thinking about the future with regards to pitches and the Clubhouse. Our lease runs out in 2022, and the school pitch will also need relaying around that time, will the school be interested or able to do that? To help us plan for the future we need to start thinking about where we want to be and what we want to look like in 7 years time.

There is also a serious question over the future of hockey itself. EH thinks that by focussing on elite success we will attract youngsters into the sport and their plans are to double participation in 5 years. In reality several Clubs have found it difficult to continue, and this has manifested itself in a number of Saturdays where some teams had no opposition, the worst was where 3 sides had shopping as an option. Combined with many schools converting pitches to 3G, and having no hockey enthusiast on the PE staff, our sport is under threat from the cash rich FA, the National Curriculum and Academisation.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Another good year with bar profits not quite the highest ever but Derek tried. Socially, all the usual activities were evident, with special mention to Jo and Sean for a great seasons hard work, the Dinner Dance was excellent once again.

TOURNAMENT

Once again it summed up the Club with good hockey, great people, good food and drink and a brilliant if noisy atmosphere. Nobody does it better. Thanks to Derek for his foody beery genius.

Finally, thanks to Charlie Orchard for the new Boards behind me, and our thoughts and prayers are with him following the loss of his wife Ann, and am pleased to say the Club were represented at her funeral

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. Coaching is fundamental to our future, as is a continued willingness to get involved in the support activities which are all a part of club life which is often forgotten about – please get involved, offer to help - it is your club, help make it brilliant.

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

c) Treasurer - James Cashmore

The treasurer presented the interim accounts for the 2016/2017 season (the year-end is 30 June). He welcomed questions from the meeting as he went through the figures but highlighted the following.

The balance sheet shows that the club continues to have a healthy cash position, it is just a pity that it is impossible to earn any sort of interest in today's High Street.

The net result for the season shows a small loss and this is after,

-a big increase in pitch costs by Becket who nevertheless remain much more cost effective than WB School. I have also used a further £5,000 from my pitch reserve leaving £6,000 to carry forward.

-despite falling total bar sales Derek continues to make over 50% profit. It would be great if we could increase our sales next year to help the club more.

-other speakers will describe the difficulties of selection with many players being unavailable each week but this means we have more playing members so subscriptions are up this year for both men and women.

-the dinner again made a small profit thanks to the efforts of the organisers.

-clubhouse costs are similar to last year apart from a big bill for the boiler repairs. I hope this is not repeated next year.

-playing costs are steady overall but a fall in the costs of kit this year has been matched by the extra pitch costs, balls and tournament fees. Indeed summer hockey is very expensive compared to winter leagues because pitch costs are included in the fee. Organisers need to consider if they charge enough match tax to cover the entry fees.

-Bob has made some grants from the Cooper-Richardson fund but these have been matched by donations this year.

-men 1 coach is after sponsorship received.

PROPOSE - to leave subscriptions at present levels (Match tax rates also expected to remain unchanged although this is a committee decision) because I still have my pitch reserve to cover us for at least one more season but after that they may need to rise. However if we don't have any large repair bills next season this could be not until 2019. Proposed by James Cashmore, Seconded by Dave Ryan and carried unanimously. Andrew Barker thanked James for his continuing hard work with the accounts.

d) Social Secretary – Sean Gauton

The regular social diet of two helpings of "quiz with curry" and the annual dinner dance was supplemented with a "pork pie and cheese" evening. All were well attended and appeared to be blessed with mirth and enjoyment. I will stand again as Men's Social Secretary.

e) 1st XI Mens – Ben Farrar

P22 W6 D4 L12 F43 A65 Pts22 NINTH

After a mixed pre-season we started the league season with a strong home performance beating North staffs 3-1, this was followed up in true Bridgford style with a poor performance losing to newly promoted Worcester 4-1, being hit on the counter attack numerous times whilst being camped in their half. These two opening performances would probably summed our season up, in the sense of not knowing which team would turn up each week!

We then followed these 2 opening fixtures with a good win at home to Khalsa followed by 3 defeats in a row by a single goal, in the opening half of the season we would lose 4 of the 11 games by a single goal which showed how competitively close the league has now become and also an element of our inability to kill games off or keep hold on to a lead.

During the run in towards the end of the first half of the season we did put in a disciplined performance at Nottingham University away to only lose 2 nil, the Uni would run away with the league scoring 100 goals averaging 4.5 a game and only conceding 18, the rise and strength of Nottingham university over the past couple of years has been scary and has seriously hampered our ability to attract Nottingham university players to the club, the positive news is the we have formed a good relationship with Nottingham Trent and introduced Aaron Reid and David Gallagher to the first team set up along with other Trent players throughout the club, this relationship can be seen as an opportunity for this club to form a relationship throughout the club.

The second half of the season didn't start well with only 1 point picked up from the first 5 games, we did face 3 of the top 6 teams away in this run which hit our confidence and seriously flagged up some concerns with us lingering in the lower half. A vital 2-1 victory then followed over our local rivals Loughborough Town helped to drag us out of the scrap at the bottom but 2 defeats followed to make it interesting with 3 games to go. A 1-0 win away at Stourport from the last hit of the game and a draw after being 3 nil up v North Staffs make it an interesting last game of the season, 4 teams on the same points total with 1 team to go down, luckily enough our 3 all draw at home to Worcester secured our safety in Midlands Premier for another season.

Now for Thank you's, Thanks to Kev for his coaching to the 1st and 2nd team on Thursday night in all conditions, Thanks to Geoff for providing us with away fixture postcodes and asking what shirt number we are all wearing when we wear the same every week, must be an age thing. Thanks to Colly for his handover, he has offered welcome support throughout the season, most notably his videoing ability to record the sideboards and his note pad from his Go Pro head cam! I'd also like to thank the rest of the club for their support in the background and during matches. Also thanks to rest of the 1st team squad and senior players for their support and abuse.

The biggest Thank you has to go to Doug, I have to be honest over the past few years I was aware he did a lot for the 1st team and the club but this year I have realised how much so thank you from me, the 1st team and the rest of the club. I do have one request though Doug..... Please don't ring me between 9-5 as it gets rather embarrassing have to apologies in meeting for my phone going off, some of us still have to work to pay your pension so you can play golf all the time!

In summary its been challenging first season as captain with 6 ex national league teams in it and the quality of the league improving ever year. The work now commences in the background to try and attract young players to the club who can challenge for a place in the first two teams.

Doug thanked Ben for his captaincy, and 2 vital goals in last 3 games, as well as being able to play in most positions on the pitch, to Richo who is the best player this Club has ever had, to Geoff for the amount of time on Saturdays he spends with the Club, to Whittle and Marshy for their captaincy, and finally a request for more complete 'Club' training next season

Jon presented the MRHA Pennant to Ben for Sociability Award for 1st XI in the Midlands

f) 1sts XI Ladies – Fiona Lambourne on behalf of Alice Lineker

P18 W9 D1 L8 F45 A33 Pts28 FIFTH

Side ended getting promoted last season into the Feeder league again, where 4 or 5 sides can be relegated at end of season. We struggled in first half of season ending up at bottom end, but with fewer injuries, some players returning, we gelled better after Christmas and played faster hockey and went on a winning run. We managed a scrappy win against Worksop in the last game to keep our place in the league. Some good Juniors coming through including player of the season, Georgia B.

Thanks to Bambi for her captaincy, who started off in Juniors, and best wishes in her move to the South West, to Steve T for his coaching and support, Bob for regularly umpiring, and Geoff for his advice and support

g) 2nd XI Mens – Geoff Bail on behalf of Alex Marshall

P22 W5 D1 L16 F68 A110 Pts16 ELEVENTH AND RELEGATED

My first apology is for not being here tonight. My second is for leading a side considered too good to go down to exactly that, relegation. Now normally in sports interviews after a teams lost or like us this year lost numerous times, they spout the same old cliché; "I'm not gonna make excuses" and it would be easy for me to write this but I share the same mantra as my team this year, why make life easy for myself? So you can call missing key players in key games due to injuries etc. an excuse if you like but I prefer to call them reasons. This was a huge reason why this team, a good team on our day, slumped to second bottom in a league where top 6 wasn't an unreasonable target. We didn't have our day when we needed it. It's all good and well having your strongest team out against Loughborough Students and Beeston, tough games for any 2nd XI side, but we needed

our strongest side against the teams not containing future national league players and this only happened once, a 6-3 win away at Loughborough Town. Another reason for our poor season was the slow start we had, two open goal misses against Leek saw us drop two valuable points, and the previous week we had dominated Khalsa and come away with nothing. Goals were a problem towards the start of the season; this became less of a problem as the season went on, so in the spirit of not making life easy for ourselves we decided to become good at letting them in also. How do you lose two games 7-6 in one season?! The hammerings of Khalsa and Stourport at home in which we scored double figures reminded us of how good we actually could be, but the narrow losses to Rugby and Loughborough Town at home, reminded us how bad we could also be. Despite a shock win against Birmingham Uni towards the end of the season, the damage was done, and with Khalsa beating everyone at home, thanks to their usual tactics, we have to face the embarrassment of a season (Hopefully just one) in the East Midlands Premier. In a season of negatives, there were some positives. The major one being Ollie Latham, the 15 year old by far our player of the season. The team spirit never waned even through difficult times. And if my legacy as captain has brought one good thing, we don't have far to travel next season. Finally thanks to Ali for stepping into my shoes when I missed our last 8 games with a broken thumb, pretty sure we were out of the relegation zone when that happened though...

h) 2nd XI Ladies – Laura Smith

P20 W12 D3 L5 F47 A27 Pts39 THIRD

The ladies 2s started the season with several fantastic new players joining the club. Ellie started as our new goalie, with her mum Nicki in an attacking midfield role, Lianne and Minty in defence, Lucy upfront and then Kirsty Hammond and Ellie Howatson making their comebacks to hockey, as well as a couple of juniors being pushed up through the ranks (Morgan and Katie). We started the season with a strong team yet different team to how we finished the previous season. However, this didn't affect our performance on the pitch. We won the first 3 games of the season against Beeston 5s 3:2, Trent Vale 4:3 and West Bridgford 3s 5:0. Unfortunately, the next game against Trent Uni 1s saw us lose 5:0 to a very young, fit and capable side, due mainly to their two playmakers in midfield. Everyone in the team gave their best efforts but sadly this wasn't enough to stop the very attacking university side. We quickly went back to winning ways, with two more against Boots 5s and Meridian, 3:0 and 2:0 respectively. As a player I've always disliked heading up the M1 to Sutton in Ashfield to play Meridian. Despite the weather being lovely here in West Bridgford, the weather up there is always raining – of course it was this game too. Andy McCarroll did a fantastic job of stopping any boisterous Meridian players from killing us with their sticks...and they called us the nasty ones. The following week we had a guest umpire appearance in the form of myself up in Worksop. The game was a fantastic game of hockey to watch and both sides played equally well with Ellie Davis making some fabulous saves. The team was happy to come out with a 1:1 draw.

The few weeks running up to Christmas saw Ash Hooper and Sally Enstone joining the team, both making great additions and real positive contributions at opposite ends of the pitch. We rolled up to Christmas with a frozen pitch, 0:2 lose to SBU 2s, 1:0 win against Nottingham Uni 4s, and finally a 4:1 loss to Nottingham Uni 3s. This meant we entered the Christmas break with 6 wins, 2 loses and 1 draw. After Christmas we started badly, losing to West Bridgford 3s who had a brilliant game and definitely put us to shame that day. They deserved the win, and the ladies 2s knew that they had let themselves down. Saying this, it did start an amazing run of games for us. Early on 11th February, we nervously rocked up to a snow covered Trent Uni pitch that was still playable. Everyone still had thoughts of the last game we had played against Trent Uni where we had previously lost 5:0. We started anxiously, but got into the game with incredible performances by everyone. The girls were all over the opposition and quickly scored. This gave them a huge boost of confidence that they needed and they continued down that path. Ellie, again, made several unbelievable saves, unfortunately letting 1 in. We finished 1:1, with a performance we were proud of. We continued building on our Trent Uni performance, with a 4:1 win against Beeston 5s, 6:1 win against Boots 5s and 3:0 win against Meridian. We headed back to play Notts Uni 3s and bettered our score from the last game to only a 2:1 loss, but again a great performance and I'm told there were two lucky goals by the opposition. Worksop again was a challenging but fair game with a 2:2 draw. We ended the season with 3 more wins again SBU 1:0, Notts Uni 4s 3:1 and Trent Vale 5:0.

Despite not getting promoted and finishing 3rd, which is 1 place higher than last year, we are all proud of the way we played and we are looking forward to summer league. A big thank you to all that umpired for us, and Steve for putting up with us at training on a Wednesday. Also to Derek and anyone else I've forgotten that help with match day arrangements.

i) 3rd XI Mens – Rich Barton on behalf of Rich Whittle

P22 W4 D3 L15 F32 A89 Pts15 ELEVENTH AND RELEGATED

Unfortunately the threes were unable to prolong their stay in the Midlands Premier league. We could claim bad luck in when in the last two minutes of the last game we had two last gasp chances to equalise and secure the point we needed for survival but a season is decided over 22 games. The reality is that we did not score enough goals and could not field a strong enough side consistently throughout the season. In midst of relegation there were some positives:

- A core of players playing in most of the games;
- Two young up and coming players in Joe Marshall and Harvey Ellis putting in strong performances (in most games we fielded four under 18s);
- A memorable Christmas social; and
- Providing support to the twos, more than 10 different players answered call ups in the season meaning that most of the threes squad played for the twos at some point in the season.

I would like to give a special mention to Paul Gegg who always answered a call up to the threes but also umpired many games for the ladies during the season. I would also like to mention the senior players who supported during the season in particular Wardy who played more games than we expected and provided enthusiasm and experience to the team. Thanks goes to our umpires for the season (Pete, Glyn and others who stepped in) and to Doug and Geoff for their behind the scenes support.

j) 3rd XI Ladies – Caroline Gates

P20 W6 D3 L11 F27 A61 Pts21 EIGHTH

This season has been a solid season for the West Bridgford Ladies 3s, settling ourselves back into Division 1. After an initial good start by getting some valuable points against Trent Vale and SBU we had a difficult week against our very own 2s, followed by some tough university oppositions. That doesn't reflect our performance though as we had some fantastic team performances, certainly reaping the benefits of having a consistent team who all work as a team and for each other. By just playing simple hockey, putting the excellent training from Phil and Jono into practice, and working together, we were able to minimise the damage in those tough games. Things could have taken a turn for the worse when our regular keeper could no longer play hockey, but we were incredibly lucky that Erin stepped up from the 4s. We then went into a better run post-Christmas to get enough points to keep us middle of the pack (even beating our own 2s...). We ended the season 7 out of 11, not far behind the couple of teams above us and solidly middle of the table. This year was certainly a year for the juniors from the 3s, with 3 of the ladies awards going to 3s juniors. Congratulations to Erin for winning Ladies 3s Player of the Season, to Tash Marshall for winning Junior of the Season and to Claire Stuttard for winning Most Improved Ladies Player of the Season. All 3 have hugely improved over the season and become incredibly valuable to the ladies 3s and I'm sure will continue to get better and better. A big thank you to all the other ladies 3s players as well – they have made being ladies 3s captain a breeze and everyone has had a good season. Thanks also to all those who have umpired for us – too many to name! And as always, a massive thanks to Phil and Jono for their fantastic training. Without them reinforcing the basics and need for fitness this year we wouldn't have had the year we've had.

k) 4th XI Mens – Josh Carroll

P22 W4 D2 L16 F28 A107 Pts14 TENTH

It was a tough season, with the same 4 strong university sides, plus a very strong Beeston team, the 12 team league split into 2 distinct halves. We started with a fairly tough run in of Brum, and the two Loughborough sides, putting us towards the bottom of the pack, as to be expected after those fixtures. Our first win came in week 6 at home to Cannock, our 2nd and 3rd goals of the season. We got very good at scoring two goals, we did in each of the four matches that followed, but it's the 17 we conceded that landed us with just 6 points going into Christmas.

Determined to improve in the 2nd half of the season, a great performance away at Beeston on the first game back took a much needed 3 points, again, two goals. The Uni fixtures came around again, but a much more positive experience, scoring five across the three games against the best teams in the league, a little disappointed not to have taken a point from at least one of them. The visit of a strong Leek team, followed by a tough away trip to Cannock kept us in the danger zone. The critical fixture on our list was bottom of the table Sutton Coldfield away. With even the weather turning against us, we just about managed a 1-0 victory, although both teams could and probably should have scored more. We went into the last 3 fixtures, knowing survival was firmly within our hands, sitting three points clear of Cannock, thanks to their docked points earlier in the season. Lichfield at home was a real rollercoaster, 2-0 down with a third disallowed, we had pulled it back to 3-2, only to concede an equaliser within the last 2 minutes of the game. Notts Uni away, an absolute belter of a team performance, only being 3-2 down until the 4th goal line clearance from berry was adjudged (correctly) to be back-stick, we really did deserve a point from that one. Last game of the season, a point above Cannock, a win to secure survival... Dominating early, we scored within the first 10-15 minutes, and looked confident. Except our foot came off the gas, they pegged us back before half-time, with us only remaining level thanks to their ill-discipline reducing them to 10 men. The 2nd half was end to end, both teams had clear chances, they had quite a few short corners, and we had 15 or so. But we still couldn't score. With an anxious wait on the Cannock result, we began drowning our sorrows, or should I say, celebrating our survival. A massive thank you to everyone that umpired, came to support or played, only 46 different players this season, and a fantastic spirit throughout!

l) 4th XI Ladies – Jenny Garnham

P20 W6 D8 L6 F25 A29 Pts26 SEVENTH

After being promoted, this year was all about building on the style of play and team spirit that we'd developed last season. We had a good solid season and were never in any danger of relegation more than holding our own in the division. We played some lovely hockey at times and were the only team to beat the champions (Newark) this year which was a very satisfying result. If we can play at or near the level we reached in that match against all oppositions we'll be challenging for promotion next season. Unfortunately we sometimes fall into the habit of playing to the level of the opposition leading to some frustrating draws and losses against the lower teams. The mix of youth and experience has worked well again this year with the juniors growing in confidence and ability throughout the year. We were helped in the second half of the season by Liz Taylder making her comeback and going on to be the top scorer in the ladies section despite only playing half a season! As the season went on we faced the unusual challenge of having an excess of players across the ladies section leading to squads of 15 which made running the substitutions interesting – thanks to Alex Marshall and Dave Taylder for their help on the sidelines with this. Hopefully this will be simpler next season with the set up of a sixth team. Overall it's been a fun season - the team spirit and effort has been great so thanks to all the players. Thanks to Phil and Johnno for coaching again this season – it makes a big difference to us. Thanks also to all our umpires and to Claire Lewis for co-ordinating all the umpire requirements each week. I'm stepping down as captain this year so thanks to Sara and Boo for stepping up for next year and to Hollie Kemp for all her help as vice captain this year – it's been great to see the juniors keen to get involved with the running of the club.

n) 5th XI Ladies – Louise Walton

P16 W3 D2 L11 F13 A45 Pts11 EIGHTH

The 5s was a much changed team this season, with only 5 players from last year remaining. We were unfortunate to lose 2 of our most experienced players to the 4s, leaving us as essentially a team of Back to Hockey Ladies and juniors. We were fortunate, however, to welcome Player of the Season, Jackie Hollowell, back to playing league hockey and to gain 2 new talented Goal Keepers (Sarah and Catherine) to the club. Thankfully, early selection difficulties due to lack of availability passed and we fulfilled every fixture this season with at least a full team; many weeks having 2 or more subs, which was an improvement on last year. This said, selection was rarely straight-forward, yo-yoing from famine to feast depending upon numbers further up the club and varying availabilities. An incredible 36 different players made up the teams for our 16 league matches and even more took part in our friendlies. As a team and individually, we improved over the season. We almost doubled our points after Christmas, compared to the first half of the season. Being able to keep a more consistent team also helped. In many matches we dominated but just couldn't score to get the points we deserved. Something to work on next season.

Without doubt, one of the best qualities of the fifth team this season is that we played every match with great team spirit (even more of an achievement given that every game had a different team!) and no matter what the score, we kept battling until the final whistle and never let our heads drop. Most importantly, we have enjoyed our hockey. Despite our results, there are lots of positives to take from this season and build on next year. Thankyou to everyone who has been part of the 5s this year, to all our umpires; especially those who travelled to Worksop and Mansfield for us; and to Phil and Jonno for their guidance and patience.

m) 5th XI Mens – Steve Thompson

P20 W9 D3 L8 F54 A47 Pts30 SIXTH

This was a tough season for the 5s. Selection issues meant we did not have the same 11 players from week to week. The first half of the season was tough and we finished in December a little worried. However we then stormed the second half of the season to finish right in the middle of the league. The season was dominated by Loughborough and Boots 4 teams who opened a very significant gap early on. Loughborough had an excellent young team who will do well higher up. Highlight of the season has to be beating Boots 4s away in the last game of the season for the second year running. We scored 54 goals although there was no run away goal scorer. We struggled in defence. We did not have the same back 4 for a single game all season and this showed. But we still played some great hockey and drank lots of beer. We had some great fun, scored some great goals and even managed to lose to our own 6th team twice on the way. Thanks to Geoff Bail and Doug Stuart for all the help at selection, and luckily we had a very tasteful trophy for player of the week.

o) 6th XI Mens – Ian Johnson

P20 W9 D3 L8 F40 A44 Pts30 SEVENTH

Another very good season developing our youngsters and pushing them on to the next level in what is a tough league which contains 5, 4th teams, 3, 5th teams and 2, 6th teams. We finished on 30 points, the same as our 5ths and Beeston 6ths. We were both only 1 point away from 3rd place. We developed youngsters such as Ollie Brewill and Andrew King who quickly went on to the 4ths. There were also the regular youngsters of Finn Morton, Zak Pendlebury, Jonathan Radford and Harry Middleton. Sometimes they struggled but generally they held their own as the team gave them confidence to progress. The team would not be as successful if it was not for the consistent adults in the team, mainly Jon Wells, Jimmy Carberry Matt Ormian and Ian Freeguard and having an adult goalkeeper which at this level is crucial. Ben Barlow and Nick Baker were also vital, when available. Steve Morrell also deserves a mention as he was often brought up from the 7ths to fill gaps all over the pitch.

I would specifically like to thank the other captains for their hard work; Josh and Steve for not taking my 'important' adults and Jon for letting me take anyone I needed from the 7ths.

Yes I am available for re-election as 6th team captain providing I have the current set of adults available.

p) 7th XI – John Cockroft

P18 W13 D1 L4 F61 A34 Pts40 THIRD

After a less than convincing start, the 7th Team Season ended up positively. 3rd Place finish with 40 Points. It was clear from early on that First Place would belong to Derwent 4ths, who were runaway League Champions, only losing once, which was to ourselves. For the majority of the Season we were in a 5-team mini league for 2nd / 3rd places. Thanks to a strong second half we ended up 3rd, which was a fair reflection of the season as a whole.

Team spirit was strong and player availability remained generally high throughout. Won all home games. Andy Pendlebury was Club top scorer with 25 goals. Points per game was $40 / 18 = 2.22$, which was top performing Club team

q) 8th XI – Sean Gauton on behalf of Chris Garnham

P18 W2 D2 L14 F20 A65 Pts8 NINTH

Things didn't auger well when we lost all our forwards from last season, two juniors promoted and an adult to injury. Therefore, we were starting in a higher league with brand new young strikers. Perhaps the gods were not smiling on us either when our first game was called-off due to a very large and persistent thunder storm. Then we had a planned blank fixture Weekend followed by another when the Newark team folded, that meant that our first full league game was 22nd October when most other teams had already played three times. Obviously, they were more match-ready than us and the juniors found it difficult to gel. Added to this the adults in the opposition often used their weight and height to intimidate the juniors, unfortunately the opposition umpires often failing to intervene.

So, the season up to Christmas saw us draw only one game against Burton 6, but the highlight was a very good performance from the juniors against Derwent 4 requiring close marking and good speed to match the fast, skilful and well-drilled Derwent juniors. At this point I could see much improvement in the juniors and we were now playing well together often

holding our own until the latter part of matches. The second half of the season the team showed a marked improvement with the assistance of Jon Worsley (occasional) and Gilly playing for 30 minutes in several games to regain his fitness(!) The juniors were also showing more confidence resulting in a good win against Belper 6 early in February. They were also more competitive winning 50/50s and pressuring the opposition whatever their size. We rounded-off the season with a good win at Boots absorbing a lot of pressure and having the best of the goal scoring chances.

In summary, we had a very slow start but developed a competent team with good camaraderie, hopefully next season I will still have the services of some of the juniors up to Christmas so that I can gradually introduce newly promoted juniors into what has been a very strong NE1 league. Personally, I would like to thank all the team for their efforts and improvement over the season, our umpires throughout the season, and the assistance of the 9th and 10th team captains for feeding new players to the 8th team. I have a special thanks to Andy Cooper who had a fantastic season despite the results which would have been doubly worse if he hadn't pulled-off some remarkable saves.

r) 9th XI –Mike Barnes

P16 W3 D1 L12 F34 A60 Pts10 NINTH

This was a very tough season for us. With a squad including 4 youngsters, 5 new-to-hockey adults and 6 players over 60 we knew it was going to be difficult. The best thing to come out of this season was the team spirit, with everyone remaining keen to play despite the results. We started the first half of the season playing against some of the stronger teams, which meant that we had to persevere through several weeks before getting the encouragement of a positive result. We then started to pick up points from the weaker teams and looked set for a mid-table finish. However this was confounded in the second half, when we performed better against the stronger teams, but without reward, and lost to the teams we had previously beaten. As a result we ended the season in last place, above the Blanks.

I would like to thank all the squad for their continued support and commitment in the face of such adversity. I would like to think that we made every opposition work for their result, and scared some of the stronger teams into thinking we might win.

Finally a word about the League organisation. It proved very difficult to develop our game with so much disruption from blank fixtures. The season started with 2 blank teams. A third dropped out before the league games started and a fourth conceded most of its games in the first half of the season. With blanks in higher divisions in the Central League, the League needs to reorganise so that we can all have a full programme of fixtures.

s) 10th XI –Clive Notman

P22 W16 D0 L6 F63 A41 Pts48 SECOND

This was a season that started well and continued that way throughout, never out of the top two the team kept on winning games. The only slip ups were against the Champions twice (one uncontested), Derwent once and three times against strangely strong Nottingham teams who just happened to be our closest rivals. This was achieved by a squad of approximately thirty players, half were from the U16 & U14 age group and there was a steady turnover of this group as James Blacklock, Josh Kennaugh and Tom Scarborough moved up to join others from the previous season's squad. Josh North had a great season in goal, Matt Brewill got the goal scoring habit late in the season and there were excellent contributions from Ben Haden, Jasper Hanson, Harry Wells, George Dearnley, Jack Gladstone, Tom Edwards, Ed Abrams and Robert Hall.

The rest were the adults who performed admirably, each fulfilling the role assigned to them with great discipline. The absence of interest in those players from the under-performing higher teams was much appreciated as it allowed continuity so that this group of 'the unknown, the overweight and the nearly dead' could develop into a formidable unit for the purposes of Central League Division 2NE. Special mention here for Mike Walsh who played all of nearly every game and was the heartbeat of the team. Pete Brewill was top scorer with 18 goals, Chris Berry was second with 9 and Matt Brewill third with 7. The other main contributors (make your own mind which category) were Rich Bonsall, Simon Walton, Mark Blyth, Sam Ludlow, Marc North, Sam Hackett, Clive & Fred Notman plus some guest appearances including Alex Cattaway playing up front!

Thanks to all who played (and parents), they made organisation relatively easy by their availability and enthusiasm, also to the umpires. In the absence of a successor emerging at this stage the captain is willing to stand for next season.

Jon presented the MRHA Pennant to Clive for Runners Up spot in Central North East Midlands Division 2

t) Veterans – Martin Ebsworth

Once again we entered 3 teams in the Highfields 6 a-side Vets summer league, whilst all other Clubs put one side in. In the EH Cup, the O40s under Ed Binder managed a couple of wins against a strong Beeston side and then Nuneaton, before being well beaten by a very strong Belper side who went on to lose in the semi-finals. The over 50s lost their first match to a strong Nottingham 'shire' side, then in the Shield a couple of wins against Chesterfield and St Neots took us to the semi-finals where we narrowly lost away 2-1 to the eventual winners Bowden. Very enjoyable and social hockey

u) Junior Boys - Bob Douglas

It's not a great advantage giving your report near to the end so I once again I have rung the changes to keep your interest! Firstly, you will be interested, I hope, in the Cooper/Richardson fund, which is designed to help promising juniors, particularly goalkeepers, with their development (not their kit, we have always paid for that). The fund currently stands at just over £6,000. In the past year, we have received a generous donation from a vice-president and also a "cut" from the sales of Hells Gold, from the

Magpie Brewery, as well as a couple of other generous smaller donations. Over this season, we have paid out getting on for £500, with a couple more “bills” to come. The purpose of the money is to spend it, while the club will try to raise money so as to maintain a decent balance when the opportunity arises.

Secondly, a big thank you to everyone who has helped us to deliver what is now a massive operation, whether on Sundays, Mondays or Wednesdays. In particular, thanks to Melanie Hart, who has kept me in order/organised on Sunday mornings for the past 5 or so years but is now moving on. She will be a hard act to follow but I have every confidence that Mrs Wells will be up to the task!

Thirdly, a few snippets of information/highlights for you. Our boys U12s were County runners up and came 4th in the Midlands tournament last Sunday. Earlier in the season, the Hockeyday was well attended, despite abysmal weather in the run up and Helen Richardson-Walsh was an absolute joy and a great advert for hockey - now where was it she started out? At our end of Season Junior Tournament on Sunday, 456 slices of pizza, 100 cocktail sausage rolls and 72 mini cheese and onion rolls were consumed - and not all by the coaches. This may give you some idea of the numbers who attend every Sunday. Ladies awards this season were as follows:

1st team, Georgia Brown (age 17), 2nd team, Sally Enstone (16), 3rd team, Erin Smith (17), 4th team Holly Kemp (16), 5th team Jackie Hollowell (quite a lot, but she did do Back to Hockey!), most improved player, Claire Stuttard (15). Oh and a junior won the most promising junior award also! At a more prosaic level, I need to tell/remind you that we have brought in one change for all our juniors - which is that they must be provided with and wear face masks when defending short corners. Looking forward, we have a few changes in store. Sundays are going to start half an hour earlier from next season, i.e. at 9.00, in order to offer more pitch space to the youngest coaching group. All being well, we are hoping to offer boys U18 training on Thursdays next season, discussions are currently under way on that. Other than that, all we need is more help, more encouragement and for all our adult members to make juniors feel as welcome as I was made to feel back in 1970 when I joined the club.

Finally I must report I actually caught the Helen R-W bus to the club social a few weeks ago

v) Mixed – Mick Hart

For the second year running our mixed squad won the Highfields mixed 7's Summer competition (Last July), under the management of Rich Bonsall and captaincy of Rich Smith.

Beeston came up with the idea of getting a proper 11 a side league up and running (there hasn't been one in Notts in anyone's recent memory) With that in mind we thought it only polite to support the new league, and following an inaugural 8 games against Beeston, Boots, Ilkeston and Newark (in the first half of the season) our 11's side finished 2nd (just), which we were pleased with that. The second half of the season saw a re-run, this time against 2 Beeston teams, (their first and second team players wanted a go!), plus Ilkeston and Boots. We finished 3rd behind Beeston Bees and Boots, but only because we drew a couple of games we perhaps ought to have won.

In the cup we only got to play 2 games, the first away to Old Halesonians, we lost despite controlling the game for 75% of it! Our resulting plate game took us to Repton School to play a side which comprised 3 or 4 schoolgirls and boys (all T2) and the rest ex Premier league and England players and elite coaches – we put up a great fight and had an amazing game, but I lost count of the score, sorry. Thanks to umpires (Geoff), players and supporter

Performance has been the important thing for us, and why we were keen to play mixed 11's. Beeston and Boots both fielded very strong sides which included first team players. This gave some of our younger players (we regularly field 5 or more under 18's) and our ladies especially, the chance to play against Midland and National Premiership level players, and everyone who has played for us can be proud to have risen to that standard of play, and on occasion beaten opposing teams from way higher up the leagues than we would otherwise have the chance to rub shoulders with.

Looking forward we are looking at the possibility of entering 2 squads into the Players Summer 7's comp, which is being planned to run in July, and also into Boots mixed 7's tournament on 19th July. We will be playing in the 11's league again next season, and would like enter 2 squads if possible, but this is an aspiration as much as a work in progress. We will also no doubt having another go at the Cup! Rich Smith thanks Mick for organising and managing

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
A Vennett-Smith Trophy for the Player of the Year
Richard Cooper Keeper of the Year
Ladies 1st team player of season -
Ladies 2nd team player of season
Ladies 3rd team player of season
Ladies 4th team player of season
Ladies 5th team player of the season
Mavis Taylor Most improved player from Ladies
Junior girl player of season
Top ladies goal scorer
WBMHC Trophy – Personality of the Year

Andy Pendlebury
Rob Walton
Olli Latham
Mark Richardson
Paul Sibley
Andy Cooper
Georgia Brown
Sally Enstone
Erin Smith
Hollie Kemp
Jackie Hollowell
Claire Stuttard
Natasha Marshall
Liz Taylder
The Whittles

6. Election of Club Captains for 2017/2018 Season

President – Jon Wells

This person joined the Club in early 2006, has captained the 5ths, does Junior training, does Ladies training, umpires, attends socials, drinks lots of beer, and since struggling with a knee injury now regularly umpires and keeps his fitness with the elite cycling group of Abba, Fenton and Bonnett

Ladies and Gentleman we propose Phil Elliott as President for 2017/18

New President – Phil Elliott confirmed that he is delighted to be asked, and is very honoured to be President. I joined the Club from Worksop, and was keen to establish myself at the Club. First player I met was Jon Clewes, but I still joined, and he dragged us to Curry & Quiz. I especially enjoyed my time when dropped to 5ths with Geoff as captain, I enjoy vetting Wurzels ‘reply to all emails’, helping Bob with coaching on Sundays at now respectable hour of 10.30am, to Jonno for his support at coaching, and finally to Derek for best and consistent beer cellar and so I have organised a couple of jugs of beers

Vice Presidents – Existing VPs re-elected en-bloc adding Jon Wells, but deletion of Roland Price who has unfortunately died

Team Captains

The following were elected en-bloc, being proposed by Geoff Bail and seconded by Ian Johnson

Mens 1st Team	Ben Farrar
	Doug Stuart will stand as manager
Mens 2nd Team	Ali Lewis
Mens 3rd Team	Richard Whittle
Mens 4th Team	Josh Carroll
Mens 5th Team	Richard Smith
Mens 6th Team	Ian Johnson
Mens 7th Team	John Cockcroft
Mens 8th Team	Chris Garnham
Mens 9th Team	Mike Barnes
Mens 10th Team	Clive Notman

The following were proposed by Liz Taylder and seconded by Fiona Lambourne

Ladies 1sts	Aimi Dickinson
Ladies 2nds	Laura Smith/Robyn Wiles
Ladies 3rds	Caroline Gates
Ladies 4ths	Boo Smith/Sara Green
Ladies 5ths	Jo Marshall/Louise Walton
Ladies 6ths	Emily Fox (tbc)
Ladies Chair of Selection	Liz Taylder proposed by Fiona Lambourne and seconded by Louise Walton

		PROPOSER	SECONDER
Veterans	O40s Ed Binder	Clive Notman	Ian Johnson
	O50s Martin Ebsworth	Clive Notman	Ian Johnson
Fixture Sec	Mark Johnson/Jasmine Goddard	Ian Johnson	Bob Douglas
Ground Sec.	Tony Johnson	Dave Ryan	Sean Gauton
Umpire Sec.	Doug Stuart/Claire Lewis	Ben Farrar	Fiona Lambourne

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 2017/2018 season:

		PROPOSER	SECONDER
Chairman	Geoff Bail	Dave Ryan	Doug Stuart
Secretary	Martin Ebsworth	Doug Stuart	Richard Bonsall
	Laura Smith	Doug Stuart	Richard Bonsall
Treasurer	James Cashmore	Ian Johnson	Clive Harrison
Social Sec.	Jo Batten	Steve Thompson	Bob Douglas
	Sean Gauton	Steve Thompson	Bob Douglas
Junior Organiser	Bob Douglas	Louise Walton	Ian Johnson
	Nicola King	Louise Walton	Ian Johnson
Club Welfare Officer	Sarah Aaron	Bob Douglas	Mike Barnes
Bar Organiser	Derek Wise	Phil Elliott	Ben Farrar
PR Officer	Mick Hart	Clive Harrison	Jon Clewes
Membership Secretary	No volunteers		
Committee	Richard Bonsall	Sean Gauton	Dave Ryan
	Jon Clewes	Martin Ebsworth	Sean Gauton
	Plus 2 from Ladies Committee		
Scrutineers	Charlie Orchard	Dave Ryan	Jon Clewes
	Dave Allison	Dave Ryan	Jon Clewes

Clubhouse Manager Although not an official position, Derek Wise with assistance from Martin Ebsworth

Please note, none of the above positions is a paid job, and everyone gives their time and effort for free

7) Development – Martin Ebsworth

CLUBHOUSE

Clubhouse was generally ok, but pump boost needed to be replaced which cost a couple of thousand, but bear in mind everything is 14+ years old and thanks especially to Derek and Linda for sorting this and the cleaning.

PITCHES

Both pitches seem to be playing ok, especially when School one is slightly wet. You have heard about pitch costs at School and we will have yet another chat with them, but we still have a good relationship with Becket and will be seeing if any more pitch slots come available. We will again reserve 12 to 5pm on Saturdays and Sunday mornings for next season.

Finally, it is important to look after all these facilities and tidy up after us, put litter/bottles in bins etc so we keep pitches in good condition for as long as possible and avoid getting mud on them. Any ideas for improvements for players or spectators, please let me know

As mentioned, our lease on this Clubhouse is up in 2022, and the Committee will be setting up a small Development Working Group, to review where we think Facility wise, the Club should be aspiring to in 5 years time. Try and stay where we are, 2 pitches and Clubhouse or part of a larger South Nottingham Sports Complex. If anyone would like to input into this, please let Geoff or I know

8) Any Other Business

- NHA AGM was on 26 April 2017 and EMHUA AGM was on 25 April 2017, MRHA 24 May
- MRHA are once again talking about moving to open league, but not sure when from
- Beeston summer league/ Vets summer league/Ladies league
- WBHC (Liz Taylder) is league secretary for next 2 seasons for NWHL
- Could captains please keep tabs on shirts, balls and first aid kits and any keys to hand over to new captains .
- Reminder that new kit and kit prices are on website, or see Mick Hart
- Womens Hockey World Cup in Summer 2018 in London at Olympic park
- Thanks to Robin Wyles and Laura Smith for organising fund raising raffle
- Letter from Malcolm Baker thanking Club for card and best wishes on his 80th birthday
- The Committee want more members involved in the running of the Club. Eg We will be looking for volunteers to look after the interests of the Club umpires, and someone to help re-launch and run our Twitter account, and pitch booking - neither should be that time consuming so any one interested, do come and speak to Geoff or Martin. Similarly, a number of us have been in position for many years, eg Chairman, Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Treasurer, Junior Organiser, Bar Manager and some will be looking to step down during this next 5 year period. We are again looking for volunteers who wish to give something back to the Club to step forward, who would like to know more about these roles, and this can allow a period of shadowing, and a phased smooth hand-over

Thanks for another excellent joint AGM, and for all who attended and took part,

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

The first committee meeting will be held on 6 June (tbc) - Venue - Clubhouse

Andrew Barker	Geoff Bail	Mark Johnson	Sarah Aaron
Andrew Cooper	Gordon Richardson	Mick Hart	Caroline Gates
Bob Douglas	Ian Johnson	Mike Barnes	Fiona Lambourne
Ben Farrar	John Cockroft	Phil Elliott	Lee Reynolds
Clive Notman	Jon Clewes	Pete Bonnett	Jenny Garnham
Clive Harrison	James Cashmore	Rich Bonsall	Laura Smith
Derek Wise	Josh Carroll	Richard Barton	Louise Walton
Dave Ryan	Jon Wells	Sean Gauton	Liz Taylder
Doug Stuart	Jeremy Dixon	Steve Thompson	
	Martin Ebsworth		

4 May 2017

ATTENDANCE

LIST

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