

Bedford Hockey Club AGM
Thursday 4th June 2009
At 7.30pm
At the Bedford Sports and Hockey Centre.

Present: Rob Moulam (Chair), Hensley Moulam, Martin McLeod, Trish Sawyer, Tony Sawyer, Emily Sawyer, James Bilham, Phil Norford, Natalia Norford, Matt Riley, Nigel Brookes, Mandy Brookes, Catherine Lymer, Duncan Talbot, Phil Joyce, Mark Lawson, Mary Wilcockson, Heidi Wright, Dave Langley, Nicola Genders, Michelle Drewry, Hannah Scott, Simon De Sousa, Richard Pyall, Dan Heydon, Jo Willis, Rowan Tully

1. Apologies for Absence: Brian Woodrow, Rob Oakley, Brendan McNulty, Verity Mason, Steve Bilham, Kevin Morgan Jones, Pauline Woodthorpe, Adrian Talbot, Fran Stedman, Caroline McGuckian, Caroline Stead, Ranjit Sehmbi, James Oakley, Fiona Peacock

2. Review of the previous minutes.

Approved.

Proposed: James Bilham, Seconded: Martin McLeod

3. Chairman's Report: R Moulam

Another season has flown past and as usual I'll leave the reports on how each side of the club has performed on the pitch to the club captains.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people for their contribution to the club over the last year. A big thank you should go to the Captains, Club Captains, Team Managers, and Junior Organisers who put a huge amount of effort each week to ensure that we get teams on the pitch. As always this is not just a case of making sure you have enough available players, but also making sure that we have umpires, coaches and transport arrangements in place.

Thanks to all the umpires too. We usually need at least 8 umpires a week in the club, including representation in the neutral umpiring pools which involves a fair bit of travelling. We've operated this year without an umpire liaison officer and although this has meant a lot of extra and necessary effort for the captains, they have been greatly assisted by the flexibility of the umpires we have in the club.

We also have had a lot more volunteer coaches this year throughout the club, sharing regular weekly slots to ensure our members get the most out of their sessions. We have volunteers giving up their time not only on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, but also a great deal of time organising and planning these training sessions.

Our website continues to be an excellent method of communication available to all and is easily one of the best I've seen. Trish and Tony have done a great job getting it up and running from scratch only a couple of years ago and this continues to go from strength to strength.

We do still desperately need more volunteers though, not only to share the work load out a bit more but to also ensure we can try and build and improve what we have got already. In reality we've operated without people in key positions on the committee for the past few years now and it's only down to the hard work of the active members of the committee that we get things done. So a massive thank you to those that are really taking an active interest in the club.

There are several key positions that I think we really do need to fill for next season, so please have a think about any time that you can give to help us out and speak up later when we come to the election of officers.

We need a club secretary. The main part of this role would involve organising dates/times for our committee meetings which are only around every 6 weeks. Also attending these meetings, taking some notes and distributing these to the committee. This person would also manage any ad-hoc communication to vice presidents etc. I would say this role would only take up an average of a couple of hours a month though and I think having someone in this role would make a massive difference to the club and getting the most out of our meetings.

As far as I know at the moment we don't have a volunteer to be ladies club captain for next season. This role would basically involve overseeing selection of the ladies side of the club and ensuring the captains get their best possible team out each week. The club captain also would assist the captains and subs secretary in collecting subs off everyone. Also they would need to report the ladies teams results to the 5 counties league weekly by email. Even on a bad week though, this role should not take up more than 2 to 3 hours and again is really essential to have a club captain in place.

We also need a men's fixtures secretary. The league fixtures for the season will hopefully be organised between myself, Paul and Dale at the centre. So all the fixtures secretary needs to do is be a contact name to deal with any queries from opposition teams during the season and rearrange any games that are cancelled due to the weather etc. Also pre-season fixtures will need to be arranged, but this has almost been done already anyway! This role would really only take up a few minutes every now and then.

We've survived this last season without an Umpire Liaison officer, but again for a relatively small input of time each week having someone in this role would make a massive difference to our captains. This role involves organising someone to umpire in the regional pool for the men, plus umpires for men's 2's, 3's, 4's, vets, ladies 2's, 3's, 4's and 5's. This sounds like a big job but if someone can get organised with opposition teams so we provide 2 umpires for home games etc and then familiarise themselves with which teams have qualified umpires in them then it isn't too much of a big job. Should only really take up an hour a week and not necessarily even every week if this person is well organised.

It would also be great if we had a volunteer to be 100/200 club administrator. The only requirement for this role is to ensure we have draws every quarter, so will take no time at all! We will need an input of a bit more time this summer though to encourage more people to sign up and to advertise this more. In isolation this is not a

very big commitment at all and will be a great way of raising some funds for the club and making a real difference.

If you think you can fill any of these roles or even any of the other roles then please volunteer later this evening!

Obviously during the last year the management of the centre has changed. From what we've seen already this is a massive improvement on the service we had before. This also gives us an opportunity as a club to work together with the centre to make some changes, further improve the atmosphere for club members and to organise more socials here at the centre.

4. Team Reports:

Ladies Team Report 2008/09

Trish Sawyer

Summary of Team Performance

The Ladies 1st XI played in the Midlands regional League Premier Division. They had a mixed season but finished solidly near the top of the table and look well placed to push for promotion again next year.

At the end of last season the Ladies 2nd XI only retained their place in the 5 Counties Premier Division on a technicality due to other clubs pulling teams out of the league. Their season this year started off in the same vein as last year with some disappointing losses. The team was inconsistent week to week and they suffered from having players regularly called up to the 1st XI at short notice (I will come back to this). Mid season it looked as though they would again be facing relegation. However, they pulled out some impressive wins at the end of the season and got themselves to safety – all credit to Hannah and the rest of the team for that. They will be looking for a stronger and less troubled season next year.

Caroline Stead, 3rd XI Captain

“The season has been similar to last year with a great start and then a serious lack of players towards then end, resulting in a mid table finish again. Team spirit was again an important factor with every newcomer enjoying playing for us! We have had a real mixture of young and 'experienced' players with a particular mention going to Lizzie Martin, our player of the year and Cassidy Reid, our most improved player! Once again, Michelle finished top scorer for the club and we welcomed back Zoey Didlick who made a huge difference when she played again after having twins just a year ago! A special mention too goes to Caz Evans who joined the club in September and is now taking on the role of Captain for next season...good luck to her!”

The 4th Xi were promoted to Div 6 last season but failed to continue quite so strongly against their new opposition. They finished low in the table but safe from relegation. It has been suggested that they would have done better if different players had been selected and maybe some of the 5th team had been promoted (I will come back to this).

This season was the first for our Ladies 5th XI and they played strongly, finishing near the top of Div 7. Their success is partly due to Pauline's ingenuity when it comes to finding players at the last minute and turning out a team almost every week! The 5s have shown what a talented set of young players we have coming up through the club and has proven to be a great platform for juniors to enter senior hockey.

Training

Training seemed to work much better this year with the 1s and 2s training together and the 3s, 4s and 5s in a second session. Turnout was a bit variable throughout the season but I have received much better feedback from the players – so thanks to Martin and Duncan for all their hard work. One thing that could be improved on is training for Goalies. Duncan took some steps towards offering goalkeeper specific training but we need some commitment from goalies to ensure that enough turn up.

Selection

Selection was the main problem that we had to deal with this season and it highlights some underlying issues. We tried to hold regular selection meetings on Tuesdays before training, aiming to fairly select teams early in the week so that players could be notified in due time. This did not work for a number of reasons.

1. Firstly I would like to apologise for not being around to badger people as much as normally would have – we didn't start the season as organised as I would have liked.
2. Players need to make their availability known early – selection can't happen if they captains don't know who they have to choose from!
3. Players need to be more committed to Club hockey – you play for BHC first and a particular team second. This season we had players refusing to play down when they were asked to do so and some even threatening to leave the club if they were asked to play in a lower team. If strong players are joining the club and lower teams are strengthened because of it that can only be a good thing.
4. All teams have to be on board with selection – this did not happen.

The 1st XI should be the pride and priority of any club and our Ladies 1sts, of course, get first choice at selection meetings. However, there comes a point where the running of the 1st XI detrimentally affects the rest of the teams. This season the 1st XI were rarely able to say who was available at selection meetings let alone who would be making up the squad that week. This meant that the meeting basically became null and void – the other teams can't select if the 1st team doesn't know what it is doing. This led to the other captains often grabbing the first 11 players they could and not necessarily fielding the strongest side.

Hannah regularly had players taken from the 2s on a Thursday or Friday and that inevitably filters down to all the other teams and is unfair not only on the captains but on the players who are being messed around.

So, in the 2009/10 season we will not only be looking for the Ladies 1s to lead by example but hoping that all the captains can work together to better organise the Ladies Club. I hope that this will lead to improved attitudes from our players and more of a club atmosphere as they regain confidence in us.

BHC Mens Captains Report 2009

Duncan Talbot

The previous season had been a disappointing one for the mens side of the Club with low attendance at training, poor player availability, and very moderate results. This season we ran 5 mens (1-4 and vets) sides rather than 6 (dropping the 5th team). This, along with attracting a number of new members (notable some strong players from the College), has resulted in competition for team places and teams taking a squad of players to games rather than just the bare 11. The season started well with a good pre-season fitness and skills training and a programme of friendly games which built momentum that was then taken forward into the league season. We also had an excellent team of Captains in place at the beginning of the season who met at weekly selection meetings to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the sides. These things, I believe, lead to all teams having what I think they would consider to be enjoyable and successful seasons.

Veterans – Captain Hensley Moulam

The vets would benefit from recruiting a few regular younger players as they struggle against strong “young” (>40) vets teams. Good progress in the >50s vets Cup highlights the fact that we have a very strong group of >50 players who continue to enjoy their hockey and make significant contributions to the bar profits ! It was disappointing that we didn't raise a side for the >40s Cup this season. If we could have a decent run in this competition it might encourage a few younger vets to play a bit more regularly.

4s – Captain Ed Burton (Assistants Tony Sawyer and Richard Adams)

As we couldn't drop the 4th team out of their league rather than the 5s the team, which comprised mainly junior players, was playing at a pretty high level in Div 5SW. As the Club became stronger through the season we were able to get a better balance of junior and senior players in the side. The lads showed a high commitment to training and the team developed tremendously through the season and were competing well with all but the top sides. Following relegation I would hope the side would be capable of a top half finish in Div 6SW next season. It was very encouraging to see the numbers of players wanting to play towards the end of the season.

Div 6SW is still a pretty high entry level to hockey for young players (13+) and I think we need to think about perhaps having some friendly or badgers games and also perhaps entering the England Hockey Under 15s boys Cup Competition this season for the number of younger lads moving up from Sunday morning juniors. It would be nice to think that possibly in a seasons time we might have enough players (junior & senior players) and parental support (transport / organisation) to think about entering a new team at the bottom of the SW leagues.

3s – Captains Ben Beveridge and Rob Moulam

A fantastic season – Champions of Div 4SW, losing only one game. Will be a challenging season this season – a few new players throughout the Club would be beneficial to maintain / improve the strength of the squad and hopefully ensure they can maintain their position in this league.

2s – Captain Mark Lawson, Payer-coach Duncan Talbot

An excellent season rebuilding following relegation the previous season. We unfortunately drew too many games in the first half of the season. The team became stronger and more confident throughout the season with promotion remaining a possibility until the final 5 minutes of the final game of the season. Training together with the 1s should help sharpen us up this season with promotion the aim.

1s – Captain James Bilham, Coach Manjit Meeda and Manager Nigel Brookes

Good pre-season preparation and an initially promising start was followed by generally disappointing results until Christmas. After the mid-season break the team went on an excellent run, co-inciding with additionally playing indoor hockey on a Thursday night, with results only tailing off in the last 3 games of the season once continued Premier League status was assured. Many thanks due to coach Manjit Meeda for his enormous effort, enthusiasm and commitment over 2 seasons, taking over a small, inexperienced squad and establishing it as a strong mid-table side. The team feel that they now need a more experienced coach to help them to challenge at the top of the East Premier League and push on from there to National League status. We feel that Manjit is a very promising young, enthusiastic coach and hope to be able to agree a continued coaching role for him within the club where he will be able to continue his development possibly, particularly aimed towards the development of our younger players.

Junior Teams Report 2008/2009

Matt Riley

It has been a very successful season for Bedford Juniors with a membership of over 90 ,ages ranging from 4-14 and subs collection and tournament profits totalling £3971.

There have been many local tournaments with the under 9's and under 11's achieving placing in most of the tournaments. The under 13's have come across some strong opposition as we have now entered tournaments far and wide , but all the juniors have played outstanding hockey and are always enthusiastic .

Our tournaments in November were a complete success with a total of 42 teams entering and generating income into the club. This was run by the parents and coaches of the club, with some giving up the whole day (especially Richard Pyall, Guy and Jo Riley, Chris Burns and Yvonne Hawkins) Thanks to the parents who made cakes, sorted out teams and encouraged their children and manned the refreshment stall.

A special thanks goes to Jenny Fadden and Lewis Riley who helped with refreshments all morning and played in the afternoon.

There was little support from the senior side of the club despite a plea for help with umpiring etc. This tournament will be an annual and will grow in popularity.

At Christmas and Easter there were parent v children's games. Always a good hard battle with the parents normally coming off worse.

The collaboration between the Bedford schools and hockey club has been growing with two middle schools festivals planned for February, unfortunately these were cancelled due to the snow and ice, but will run again next year.

The under 9's also completed the season by entering the mini national hockey festival in Nottingham on 16/05/2000 representing Bats, They won two matches, drew one and lost one.

The ongoing support of the parents and the seven regular coaches (Matthew, Charles, Pete, Chris Jayne, Nat and Steph) is invaluable and the juniors would not function. We also lost one coach at Christmas (Pete Jones) who started life as a parent watching from the sidelines and went on to complete his level one coaching.

Richard Pyall (parent) deserves a special mention as our unofficial press officer for the juniors and therefore promoting junior hockey within the local press.

The numbers of juniors appears to be growing, it is therefore a plea that coaches come forward from the senior side of the club to help with the development of the club's future senior players.

5. Treasurer's Report: R Moulam

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, again this year we haven't had a treasurer. I think we do however have a much better understanding of the level of our bank account and the income and expenditure in the club as we are now getting regular statements directly again.

As you can see from our draft 2008/09 accounts we have made a loss of just over £1000 in the last year. The major difference between the 2 years numbers is that last year's figures included the £20k donation the club made towards relaying our new pitches.

Although the cost control appears to have remained strong, in line with last year's expenditure, it's disappointing that we have made a small loss this year.

The income from subscriptions this year has not been so good as previous years. This is partly due to the fact that we have more students/junior members, paying a reduced rate. We also have an increased number of players that offset their subs payments to coach or umpire for the club. We need people within the club to do this and to operate effectively, so we need to offer this to our members. The committee works hard as volunteers to make sure we collect full fees and I think it's disappointing that some people may have taken advantage of the fact that maybe we haven't had the time to chase every week for payment of subs. We have a complete list of who has paid for last season so far, so we will be going through this list along with team captains and club captains to identify those that have been playing but not paid so we can make sure we get this money in before the start of next season.

The amount of match fees collected is at a similar level again this year. Although we've had more people playing I think again as we have a lot of junior members and students playing in the senior club, the income from match fees is not as large as it could be. We also obviously need umpires for every game and this again reduces our income from match fees.

We do make a small profit on kit purchased each year, and have done this year on the men's side of the club. I'm pleased to say that expenditure on replacing practice and match balls that are lost each week has fallen this year, so hopefully this is something we can take forward into next year.

The 100/500 club could be a successful way of bringing in money to the club and now that we're up to date on historic draws for this we will be building and promoting this over the summer to increase potential income from this. It'd be particularly good if we could get an additional volunteer to administer this next year. It wouldn't be a big job at all and is potentially a very easy way of fundraising and making a difference to the club.

We've had some very good and successful socials this year and must continue this into next year. Our end of season do was very successful for us even though we kept the price as low as we possibly could. The expenditure on socials includes costs associated with hosting a marquee at the river festival last summer. This was again very successful and although our costs definitely exceeded our revenue for that weekend, we've definitely benefited in other areas such as increased membership. The expenditure on socials also includes the cost of replacing and updating the trophies for our end of season awards. This is obviously expenditure that we don't receive any income from and these factors slightly offset the profit from socials in these accounts.

It is disappointing that we still seem to pick up 3 or 4 fines a year from our regional hockey associations and England hockey. This year we received fines for not attending meetings and pulling out of a cup competition when we couldn't raise a side.

After clearing out our bank account last year with the donation to replace the pitches, we will have to be much tighter next season on the timescales in collecting subs and match fees. We no longer have a buffer to offset any delay in cash flow, so it's more important than ever that our members help out the committee by paying on time. A lot of our expenses such as affiliation and league fees are due before the start of the season, before we have any income from match fees or subs, so it's very important that anyone who hasn't yet paid their subs or has outstanding match fee debts settles these now.

The hockey centre has sent through some proposed rate increases to us for next season. Pitch hire rates and the cost to us for teas are likely to increase. Similarly to the club, the hockey centre does have cash flow issues as a result of replacing the pitches and needs to build for the future to replace the pitches again in 10/15 years. It's the job of the club committee however to ensure that any increase in rates primarily reflects the fact that we as a club donated £20,000 to this fund also, clearing out our reserves to ensure the pitches were replaced. We will also ensure that any

increase in fees is reflected in the quality of teas we receive and the standard of facilities that we use, particularly the state of the goals and litter around the pitch. Although we've had no increase in rates for a few years, the proposed increases are significant; the additional cost to the club may be as much as the equivalent of 10% of our income from subs and match fees this year. I don't think this full amount should be passed on to our members however, as we don't want to be in a position where we are losing members as a result of increase in costs. The club will continue to be sympathetic to those that genuinely will have difficulty paying their fees.

Hopefully next season we can generate additional funds through more and better attended socials but I am going to propose that we increase some of our rates in order to cover our increased costs and to ensure that we are able to afford as much pitch time as we've had this season. The proposed rates are as follows.

Senior subs £130 per year
Student/juniors in the senior club £70 per year
Sunday morning juniors subs £55 per year

Senior match fees £10 per game
Student/juniors in the senior club match fees £7 per game

These rates will again increase if payment has not been received by 1st November. Senior subs will increase to £150 and the other categories will increase pro-rata. If a player joins part way through the season they will be given 6 weeks to pay their subs before the increase is enforced.

Subs are due on 1st July and an email/message on the website will go out to encourage people to pay before the start of the season to ensure the club avoids any cash flow problems with affiliation fees due prior to the start of the season. This message will also explain why it is necessary to increase subs/match fees next season.

The subs secretary will continue to send regular updates on who has paid subs to the captains. Each captain must cross check this on a weekly basis against who is playing in their team.

Propose Rate Increases: Rob Moulam
Vote: Yes: 27 No: 0 Abstain: 0

The meeting agreed that it would be nice to have a fundraising committee, but the club should first concentrate on filling positions which are essential to the operation of the club. In the meantime team captains will start to think about nominations for social/fundraising representatives from each team for next season.

It was also agreed that the 100/500 club has not been run to its full potential over the past few years. This is again due to a lack of volunteers as a whole and although we have basically administered this the current committee has now had the time to develop and grow this to increase fundraising potential.

The 100 club costs £1 per month, 500 club costs £5 per month and it is designed to pay out each quarter an amount that depends on the number of subscribers. The monthly charge for this is currently paid by members through standing orders.

6. Clubs 1st: Catherine Lymer

Our Clubs 1st award is due for an update early next year. A number of policies need to be adopted in order for us to satisfy the standard required. All the policies will be made available on the club website.

Policy for checking new and existing volunteers: The new policy was outlined. Coaches CRB checked, 1 to 12 ratio for coaches. CRB checks on current volunteers are up to date. Juniors are U18. We should not use CRB as a be all and end all – references should be checked too.

Proposal to adopt CRB policy

Vote Yes: 27 No: None Abstain: None

Equity policy

The new equity policy was discussed. This makes sure that we are open to everyone and not discriminatory. All club members follow a code of ethics. This will also be available on the website.

This is already incorporated into the club constitution.

Vote: Yes: 27 No: None Abstain: None

Safeguarding and protecting young people in hockey policy

The new safeguarding and protecting young people in hockey policy was discussed. No bullying/ CRB checking/ allow communication from everyone. Reporting of concerns and complaints. This policy will be available on the club website.

Vote: Yes: 27 No: None Abstain: None

Adopt England Hockey child welfare procedures

The England Hockey child welfare procedures were discussed.

Document all incidents that are reported according to official forms. Keep documents for 20 years.

Vote: Yes: 27 No: None Abstain: None

7. Election of Officers:

Position	Name	Proposed	2 nd
President	Brian Woodrow	Rob Moulam	Phil Norford
Chairman	Rob Moulam	Pauline Woodthorpe	Duncan Talbot
Subs secretary	Mary Wilcockson	Pauline Woodthorpe	Catherine Lymer
Treasurer	Trish Sawyer	Pauline Woodthorpe	Catherine Lymer
Secretary	Martin McLeod	Rob Moulam	Phil Norford
Women's Club Captain			
Men's Club Captain	Duncan Talbot	Catherine Lymer	Trish Sawyer
Women's Fixture Sec.	Jo Gilmour	Pauline Woodthorpe	Trish Sawyer
Men's Fixture Sec.	Rich McDonald	James Bilham	Rob Moulam
Social Sec.			
Auditor			
Umpire Liaison			
Junior Organiser	Matt Riley	Rob Moulam	Martin McLeod
Club Volunteer Manager			
Child Welfare Officer	Catherine Lymer	Pauline Woodthorpe	Trish Sawyer
Website/Communication Officer	Tony Sawyer	Catherine Lymer	Rob Moulam
Website/Communication Officer	Trish Sawyer	Catherine Lymer	Rob Moulam
CRB Officer	Catherine Lymer	Pauline Woodthorpe	Trish Sawyer
Ladies Captains:			
1st XI	Heidi Wright	Andrea Mason	Caroline McGuckian
1 st XI Vice	Natalia Norford	Heidi Wright	Rob Moulam
2nd XI	Nicola Genders	Hannah Scott	Martin McLeod
2 nd XI Vice	Caroline McGuckian	Hannah Scott	Martin McLeod
3rd XI	Caz Evans	Trish Sawyer	Mary Wilcockson
3 rd XI Vice	Caroline Stead	Trish Sawyer	Hannah Scott
4th XI	Catherine Lymer	Pauline Woodthorpe	Trish Sawyer
4 th XI Vice	Mary Wilcockson	Pauline Woodthorpe	Catherine Lymer
5th XI	Pauline Woodthorpe	Trish Sawyer	Catherine Lymer
5 th XI Vice	Maggie Rees	Catherine Lymer	Trish Sawyer
Men's Captains			
1st XI	James Bilham	Duncan Talbot	Adrian Talbot
1 st XI Vice	Stefan Taylor	Martin McLeod	Rob Moulam

2nd XI	Mark Lawson	Duncan Talbot	Adrian Talbot
2 nd XI Vice	Ranjit Sehmbi	Duncan Talbot	Catherine Lymer
3rd XI			
4th XI			
Vets XI	Hensley Moulam	Phil Joyce	Mandy Brookes

Action Point for Tony Sawyer: Put positions vacant on the front page of the website

Volunteer to administer the 100/500 club:
Michelle Drewry

Vice captain should be in charge of match reports and finding social/fundraising representatives.

8. Any Other Business:

Mandy Brookes: Brendan's not here so she is representing the centre. Some changes were forced on us in January. We have tried to improve the standards within the centre. We have plans for the future. Paul Moore is our new centre manager and is on a short term contract. We have been lacking a substantial level of income due to pitch hire fees being paid 3 years in advance when laying the pitches. Food prices have already increased. Dale and Iggy are helping Paul at the centre. Committee for the centre is also changing. Hockey club is represented through Rob and Matt. Other members include football and tennis. The committee is looking for 2 additional representatives. EGM to be held to formally change the structure of the centre committee. Biddenham Upper School want to talk about their involvement in this centre. They have proposed an ambitious plan involving this centre. Please use the bar and kitchen. They will take requests for food from the captains for home matches.

Pauline is collecting Tesco vouchers for the club.

Committee meeting to be held within the next 3 weeks for the new committee to introduce themselves and meet each other.

Club policy that if a player is moved up the club on or after a Thursday then it is up to the person taking the player to find a replacement for the team that they are taking the player off.

All players should text a captain so that in selection they know who was available.

Large discussion about why the selection on the ladies side of the club was not working last year, agreed to look forward and try and improve this next season by making sure full availability is known before the selection meeting.

Rob thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.