

**Bedford Hockey Club AGM**  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007**  
**At 7.30pm**  
**At the Bedford Sports and Hockey Centre**

**Present:** Brian Woodrow (Chair), Rob Moulam, Heidi Weight, Verity Mason, Alyn Meredith, Matt Riley, Phil Joyce, Bob Hughes, Mark Lawson, Dan Heydon, Catherine Lymer, Jo Gilmour, Helen Hamilton, Anna Heaton, Trish Sawyer, Tony Sawyer, Hensley Moulam, Duncan Talbot, Adrian Talbot, Pauline Woodthorpe

1. **Apologies for Absence.:** Angie Simco, Steve Bilham, Fiona Peacock, Alan Hasson, Fran Steadman, Brendan McNulty, Julian Pagilaro, Mandy Brookes

2. **Review of the previous minutes.**  
Approved

3. **Chairman's report.**

This year has been a great year for achievements for the club and it's so nice to see the results of this effort with the first pieces of carpet being laid on our new pitches.

The pitches will be ready for the start of September so it'll be great to start the new season in new leagues with our new facilities.

We also received our clubs 1<sup>st</sup> status this year. This was another massive achievement for the club. This was the result of a lot of hard work, particularly in the junior section of the club and is even more satisfying with the fact that England Hockey are using us as a case study as an example of good practices within hockey clubs.

One of the first points in our 5 year development plan is to turn into a bigger/more successful club. I'm sure our new facilities will help us attract new players to achieve this as well as the fact that our ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team have been promoted back into the national league.

Things to look forward to for next season include our new fantasy hockey game. More details on this will be available on the website soon and should provide some great entertainment through the season as well as raising some good money for the club. Trish and Tony continue to do a great job with the website and this has really opened up many new possibilities for the club.

Thanks as always go to all the captains and all the volunteers that help out each week, we do really need to keep as many people involved as possible and share the work involved in running the club. So when we ask for volunteers a bit later please step forward, we'll be grateful for any additional help that we can get!

**Proposed:** Phil Joyce  
**Seconded:** Hensley Moulam

#### 4. Team Reports

##### Men's Report from Jon Lord

###### 1. Team Captains

An unsung and unfortunately an often thankless job. It's difficult to appreciate to amount of work that goes in week in, week out to getting a team out on a Saturday unless you've actually done it. My job was made considerably easier by the fact that the club had 6 excellent team captains who were always prepared to go the extra mile to help out their fellow captains. To Thur, Danny, Steve, Alex, Brendan and Hensley, thank you very much.

The men's side of the club is not exactly swimming in players. Availability has been a problem during the whole of the season, with the last 4 or 5 games being particularly bad with around 15 players being unavailable for each of these games over the club as a whole. Team captains were often asked, at very short notice, to give up players to other teams and only went with squads of 11. Despite the frustrations this caused, each captain was always prepared to help out their colleagues as required despite the detrimental effect it had on their own team

###### 2. Umpires

As part of our affiliation to the East league, we have to provide 2 umpires to the Beds and Herts pool each week. Unfortunately we didn't have 2 dedicated umpires to commit to the pool, which meant that each week 2 players had to either miss out on playing, or else travel to cover both playing an umpiring commitments. So thanks to Dave Ross for organizing all this, and to Gary Burgess, Jules and Kali for giving up their time.

###### 3. Coaches

Jeff Hall and Matt Bessey deserve praise for the high standard of sessions they ran for the juniors on Tuesday evenings. The value of youth development has been shown by the number of players who started in the first juniors side 3 years ago and who this season were playing in the 1s, 2s and 3s. It is vital that this continues. Also thanks to Thur who took on the first team coaching role in addition to his other duties.

###### 4. Pitches

18 months ago I remember being in a meeting with Brendan and him saying that we needed to raise £300,000 for new pitches and thinking. At the time I wondered how on earth we'd do it. Here we are today with the money raised and the new pitches being laid more or less as we speak. Without the hard work of Mandy, Jules,

Brendan, Dave Tyler Bryan and Rob none of this would have happened. Also the commitment of all those who gave up a weekend to rip up astro-turf and shovel sand which saved the club £30,000 deserves a special mention.

## The Season, Team by Team

### **First Team**

Finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Prem A despite a shaky start to the season and the fact that they didn't have a coach. Also as mentioned earlier availability was a large problem, with a total of 25 players having 1 or more games for the team. Apart from Cambridge University who were promoted, most of the other teams in the division were fairly evenly matched. Providing that a coach can be found, and player availability becomes more settled, then there is no reason why a better league position cannot be achieved next season

### **Second Team**

Finished 9<sup>th</sup> in Div 1. An initially promising season that sadly ended in relegation. The 2s got 18 points before Christmas, but only 8 afterwards which tells its own story. Poor availability in the second half of the season led to an unsettled team being put out each week which led to a run of poor results. As with the 1s, if a more stable squad can be put out each week, and if there is a greater commitment to training then there is no reason why the 2s can't be promoted straight back up again next season.

### **Third Team**

Finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Div 4 SW. The season started with high hopes of promotion, but as with the 2s poor availability and injury led to a changing team put out. We now have 2 teams (the 3s and 4s) in the same division and the aim must be to get the 3s promoted.

### **Fourth Team**

Finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Div 4 SW. After promotion last season, the 4s were playing at the highest level they'd ever played at. After an inconsistent start to the season, the team soon recovered its form under the leadership of Alex 'goal machine' Robinson to end up with a comfortable finish

### **Fifth Team**

Finished 11<sup>th</sup> in Div 6 SW. After 2 successive promotions, the team was unfortunately relegated this season. A talented group of players, led by Bedford's longest serving team captain played good hockey with a good spirit, but the lack of a 20 goal a season striker proved their undoing.

## **Vets**

Finished mid table in the East Vets League. This was the first season for the Vets playing in the East League and the increased number of games on previous seasons seems to have been well received

## **Ladies Report By Becci Stroud**

It's been a good year for Bedford Ladies with the fourth team re-launched and just missing promotion, the Ladies 1's gaining their promotion back into National League and the 2's and 3's staying in their respective leagues.

We had a great turn out at trials and training this year with many new members, including juniors, ladies joining from different clubs and old members returning to the club.

All teams had their good weeks and bad, and although some weeks raising a team was harder than others, I would like to say a big thank you to all the captains for their continuous hard work and co-operation when trying to arrange and select teams together.

Good luck to the new captains and lets hope the 2007/08 season is just as eventful

## **Juniors Report by Matt Riley**

The juniors have a good, keen enthusiastic selection of children who are moving into the senior club. There is a good structure in place with young people progressing nicely into the senior section of the club.

Currently there have not been many senior girls at training due to county training taking place at the same time, however as their training times have now changed this should help boost numbers.

There is a need for more coaches in the junior section and anyone available to help on a Sunday morning is asked to contact the committee.

Duncan Talbot is retiring from junior coaching as his children have all left juniors now.

The juniors have signed a School Club Link with Biddenham to recruit young people to attend training.

## **5. Treasurer's Report.**

The main focus this year has obviously been on fundraising. This shows with the increased turnover in the club. The collection of subscriptions and match fees has improved again this year, although a lot of 2005/06 subscriptions figure will be included within miscellaneous income as there's no auditable way of allocating this directly to subscriptions. It's always frustrating when we have to constantly chase for information on money coming in, and captains having to chase players for match fees and subs every week. It would be nice if next season all club members can help make this job easier by volunteering regular payments of match fees and subs to make everyone's jobs so much easier! We'll be looking at ways we can improve this information coming in over the summer.

The 100/500 club continues to be a successful way of bringing in money and hopefully this can be further extended. We realise we are overdue to do a draw this season, we will be doing one this month and will publish the results on the website.

Our fundraising has been very successful this year and we definitely need to keep the momentum going. We made almost £4k profit on socials and fundraising this year. Over £2k of this was from the end of season dinner, raffle and auction, The rest was split between the Christmas Karaoke evening, club day, the summer mixed tournament, plop on the pitch, the quiz night etc

This summer we will be using up all our bank reserves as our contribution towards the pitches, so will have to work hard over the next couple of years to build these back up to a comfortable level. Once we have these again then the focus will return to replacing the pitches again in hopefully 10-15 years.

I propose that we have no changes to match fees and subscriptions rates again this year, although there will be a £20 increase in subs for those that do not pay by 1<sup>st</sup> November. Instead we hope to generate additional income by <<tax scheme>>

Rob Moulam propose that the £20'000 club reserves be used as payment for new pitch costs, and if this money is needed the decision to release the fund be made by the elected committee members

**Proposed:** Bob Hughes  
**Seconded:** Brian Woodrow

- 6. **Accountants Report.**  
 To be confirmed at an EGM

**7. Election of Officers.**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominated</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
<b>President</b>	Brian Woodrow	R Moulam	J Lord
<b>Chairman</b>	Rob Moulam	P Joyce	H Moulam
<b>Subs Secretary</b>			
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mary El Cincy	C Lymer	H Moulam
<b>Secretary</b>	Heidi Weight	R Moulam	J Gilmour
<b>Ladies Club Captain</b>	Trish Sawyer	H Weight	J Gilmour
<b>Mens Club Captain</b>			
<b>Ladies Fix. Secretary</b>	Jo Gilmore	T Sawyer	H Weight
<b>Mens Fix. Secretary</b>	Stratton King	T Sawyer	J Lord
<b>Auditor</b>	Simon Sadler	R Moulam	H Moulam
<b>Umpire Liaison</b>			
<b>Junior Organiser</b>	Linda Sandler	M Riley	K Lymer
<b>CRB Officer</b>	Dave Sellars & Catherine Lymer	R Moulam	J Lord

<b>Club Volunteer Manager</b>			
<b>Web/Communications</b>	Trish & Tony Sawyer	R Moulam	H Moulam
<b>Captains</b>			
<b>Ladies 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Verity Mason	R Moulam	Jo Gilmore
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Hannah Scott	H Hamilton	T Sawyer
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Caroline Stead	J Gilmore	K Lymer
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	Sam Calton & Katherine Lymer	H Weight	T Sawyer
<b>Mens 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Thur	J Lord	H Moulam
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>			
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Mark Lawson	Tony Sawyer	H Moulam
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	Alex Robinson	J Lord	M Riley
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Brendan McNulty	J Lord	R Moulam
<b>Vets</b>	Hensley Moulam	R Moulam	B Hughes

#### 8. Club Constitution.

Proposed additions and changes to constitution approved. See attached updated constitution

**Proposed:** Brian Woodrow

**Seconded:** Hensley Moulam

#### 9. Any other business.

Report for Bedford Sports & Hockey Centre:

This is an exciting time for us at the Centre as we look forward to the completion of the upgrade and refurbishment of the pitches. As you can see this is well under way. The work on the pitches will be a fairly tight schedule for the start of the season and we will be keeping the Club officials fully updated on the progress.

The fact that this project is going ahead could only have been achieved with all of the dedicated and hard work put in by everyone involved. Not least the members of the Bedford Hockey Club. If it had not been for all your fund raising from cake stalls, the Hockey Club dinner to the physical effort of pulling up the pitches and the support given to the Le Jog bike riders. Congratulations to the Junior section in gaining the Clubs First Award which was an integral part in the getting the Sport England Award of £100,000.

In saying thank you I must single out two Club members in particular. Who not only have put their effort to this project but have as Club members put plenty of effort on the pitches in playing (though I use this term loosely having watched Brendan play!!) and in supporting the teams.

They are of course Brendan McNulty & Julian Pagliaro as without them we would not be looking at the completion of this project .

The committee of the Sports Foundation say a huge thank you all it really is an outstanding achievement.

Amanda Brookes  
Chairman Bedford Sports Foundation (July 07)