

# BRADFORD HOCKEY CLUB

## BRADFORD HOCKEY CLUB AGM REPORTS 2006

### Fixture Secretary

The 05/06 season was successfully completed from a fixtures point of view with only one outstanding fixture - BHC 3<sup>rd</sup> XI v Sheffield Hallam 6th XI remaining un-played at the end of the season. Both Clubs agreed as the result would not affect League positions we would not make a big effort to get the game played.

The 4<sup>th</sup> XI withdrawal from Yorkshire Hockey League near the end of the 04/05 season was a bitter blow, and a reflection of the lack of commitment, enthusiasm on the part of some players, and an absence of a proactive attitude by the Club generally to increasing player numbers and player strength.

For whatever reason players continue to be unavailable on a frequent basis. Team selection remains difficult to establish early in the week so that by the weekend the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were often short of players and transport for away games, and at some home games we bent the rules on selection to make sure fixtures were completed.

We are often struggling to raise 3 teams as a result.

The Club in an effort to increase playing numbers needs to:

1. Make new moves to amalgamate with the University;
2. Current BHC Members need to recognise their responsibilities as Members of the Club and be regularly available;
3. Early selection must be established and players confirmed as early in the week as possible so that by Wednesday evening, at the latest, everyone knows who is playing where & when.

Trying to complete Teams on a Friday evening, even Saturday morning, is not on.

On the pitch the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, with its talented youngsters showing maturity beyond their years, lived life on the edge of the fast lane with these younger players enthusiasm driving things forward. The support and determination of the senior players, including the fittest 51 year old in the YHL, made for a potent force on the pitch. Once again, for a second year, the team could have gained promotion back to the top of Yorkshire League Hockey rather than finish in the mid table position they actually achieved.

A lot of the credit for this success must go to Stuart Harrison for his desire and determination to encourage players to train together regularly and give the team sound motivation and advice in competition.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, slipped from being the most stable team in the Club 04/05, and seemed have the widest range of selection in the Club in 05/06. Andy Moriarty took over the weekly arranging of selection contacts and travel arrangements, and with one glorious exception managed to get a full team to venues in Club Member's vehicles.

Variable availability, injury, and lack of commitment from some Club Members meant that the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, who had expected a challenging season to remain in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, did not play to the level we had hoped for, and whilst occasionally they played the opposition off the pitch, they usually found life hard in the higher Division.

Andy Moriarty deserves credit for his efforts and enthusiasm that included umpiring when the need arose when he would much preferred to have been playing. I wish we had more Club Members with a similar amount of enthusiasm.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI had some problems with availability and often had to draw on players from other home teams to complete selection. Mick & Nick Hayes once again did a great job of maintaining a competitive edge to the team. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI set no fires alight in a push for promotion, though their performance early in the season suggested that they may be in for promotion to higher the League.

There is concern that emails, text messages, and messages left on answer machines need to be responded to by everyone involved in Club activities. We need to realise that **WE ARE ALL MEMBERS** of Bradford Hockey Club not just the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI or 3<sup>rd</sup> XI. Play where and when selected and help run the Club for our mutual benefit, not for personal advantage.

There are some enthusiastic, capable youngsters being brought up through the Coaching System and we need to make sure they are given the right sort of encouragement and support. Regular games, consistent team selection, good advice on the pitch, and senior players prepared to provide transport and experience, if we are to retain them as hockey players never mind reverse this declining situation the Club finds itself in. It is important that we put this in place now.

If the England Hockey Single System, the Long Term Athlete Development Programme (LTAD), is initiated as proposed, then we will find life even more difficult as a Club. One suggestion includes no U16 player playing Senior League Hockey. If that is implemented we will be down to 2 teams if we are not careful.



### Main sponsors:

Optical Test and Calibration Ltd

Headliners

COOP

Legend Internet

New Tyke

Yorkshire Building Society

Be a Sponsor and get noticed here!



## President: Doug Akroyd

Established 1894. Affiliated to Yorkshire Hockey Association  
Email: [info@bradfordhockeyclub.org.uk](mailto:info@bradfordhockeyclub.org.uk) Web: [www.bradfordhockeyclub.org.uk](http://www.bradfordhockeyclub.org.uk)

Hon Secretary:  
Paul Bateson  
Goosewell Fold  
Westbourne Drive  
Menston  
West Yorkshire  
LS29 6EL  
Tel: 01943 871964  
[bateson@legend.co.uk](mailto:bateson@legend.co.uk)

# BRADFORD HOCKEY CLUB

Hon Fixture Sec:  
Phil Thomas  
314 Thornhills Lane  
Clifton  
Brighouse  
West Yorkshire  
HD6 4JQ  
Tel: 01484 716428  
[phil\\_g\\_thomas@hotmail.com](mailto:phil_g_thomas@hotmail.com)

Next season, it would appear, will again have two slip date weekends with no designated fixtures, one in late October to coincide with the U15/17 Regional Tournament and the other in mid February. Both dates will also match up with half term so that player availability will not be such a problem. The Yorkshire Fixture Secretaries Meeting is planned for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, Fixture List to follow.

Thornton Sports Centre, and Simon Turner, Centre Manager, have once again been superb in their support of the Club with the establishing of home games, rearranging of postponed games, Cup matches and training midweek.

The cleaning/refurbishment of the pitch with the help of the Community Club Development Programme Grant was a good move, and has lengthened both the life of the pitch and our period of tenure in using it.

However we need to make sure that School keeps its side of the bargain.

*The new drain to be put alongside the road and school side of the pitch intended to make sure contaminated surface water does not get onto the pitch and clog the surface up, as before, has still not been started never mind completed.*

*The reliability of the flood lights is an aspect that needs attention and is something the Centre must give urgent priority to through the Summer. There is talk of replacing the lights, we need to keep this to the front of the minds of both Sports Centre and School.*

*Toilets are needed near to the pitch, the re-hanging of the pitch dividing net, and suitable wheels to allow the Hockey goals to moved more easily are aspects that we now need jointly to move forward on. If we start to use the Soccer City facilities as home Clubhouse, changing and socialising, this toilet problem will disappear.*

The success of the U18 Indoor Team, North Champions and National Finalists, the Senior Indoor Team in the Yorkshire Indoor League, reflects the potential we have within the Club. The achievement of the Boys U10 Team to be Runners up in the Festival Youth Hockey at Highfields, Nottingham, over 13/14 May is an indication that early talent is being encouraged.

The Vets did enough to win games but succeeded in allowing the opposition to win instead. Nonetheless they walked off the pitch having enjoyed the experience. That way they can save themselves for next season!!

I suggest that this shows that we have a Great Club to be a Member of, we have a lively and enthusiastic past, a dynamic and skilful future, and we need to recognise that we are all part of that Club and we all need to contribute towards its future success.

And Finally:

The Club owes Paul Bateson a great debt of gratitude for his enthusiasm and desire to ensure the good name of Bradford Hockey Club is maintained within both the Community and the wider Hockey fraternity. Paul's late Friday calls to ensure that all BHC teams are in place and everyone who wants to play have been contacted; his involvement in making sure that Club clothing has been ordered and reaches the right people, and suppliers are paid correctly; his assistance in putting together the CCDP Application for the Astro Turf Pitch refurbishment – these are just three examples of the many tasks he has taken on board above and beyond the usual tasks of Club Secretary and player.

Phil Thomas May 2006



## Main sponsors:

Optical Test and  
Calibration Ltd

Headliners

CCOP

Legend Internet

The New Tyke

Yorkshire Building  
Society

Be a Sponsor and get  
noticed here!



## President: Doug Akroyd

Established 1894. Affiliated to Yorkshire Hockey Association  
Email: [info@bradfordhockeyclub.org.uk](mailto:info@bradfordhockeyclub.org.uk) Web: [www.bradfordhockeyclub.org.uk](http://www.bradfordhockeyclub.org.uk)