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# BRADFORD HOCKEY CLUB

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## Honorary Secretary's Report Season 2004 - 2005

It makes a change from the last two seasons not to have any negative comments to report regarding conduct on the field of play. We had the occasional yellow card, often awarded amid incredulity from all concerned - spectators and players alike! It just goes to show that we all need to keep our comments to ourselves when faced with the occasional barmy decisions from some of the poor quality umpiring we seem to receive from time to time. If we want better umpires then we need to get more people qualified to give a wider choice. Three club members, Derek Shaw, Tom Handley & Paul Bateson, passed the Level 1 umpire course this season and now need to finalise the qualification under match conditions - but we need more volunteers to swell the ranks of club umpires.

Although Phil has had a successful hip operation and is recovering well, he will be taking a backseat in coaching, and possible umpiring, next season. We will miss his expertise and enthusiasm at training. Paul Bateson, Andrew Moriarty and Derek Shaw, have recently qualified as Level 1 coaches, and will help with our junior development and assist at senior training. We can also welcome back Mark Harrison as a Level 2 coach who I am sure will also make a valuable contribution next season. However, if we are to make the most of this growing pool of qualified coaches, and support Bev Barstow, Martin Barstow, Terry Moorhouse, Stuart Harrison, Mo Owen, Martin Wright etc, then we need a similar level of commitment to training from the wider membership - particularly at senior level. To tempt you to training we will be looking at starting the sessions in August with some mixed SAQ (Speed, Agility and Quickness) that proved so popular last season.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI acquitted themselves admirably in Yorkshire Division One and finished a creditable mid-table. This is a remarkable achievement when you consider that the team fielded a number of 15-16 year olds at the start of the season. Danny Barstow and James Moorhouse finished as the second and third highest goal scorers respectively, ably supported by the other young talented players - Gareth Philpott, Kylan Pathmanathan, Tom Handley and Ryan Harrison. Their enthusiasm and commitment was exemplary.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI too had an excellent season and narrowly missed promotion from Division Five by a meagre 2 points. Looking back we can see a number of 'if only' scenarios. As one of this 'happy band of brothers' I am confident that had these committed players shown up to training on a regular basis then the story would have been very different and we should have romped home to victory at the top of the table.

Once again, Mick Hayes, ably assisted by his son Nick, motivated a sometimes 'thin' 3<sup>rd</sup> XI to come up with the goods on the day and managed at the end of the season to maintain a mid-table position. As before selection often left them wondering who was playing from one week to the next. Next season should prove a little more manageable - and perhaps yours truly will find himself amongst the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI as younger, fitter and more skilful players move up the teams.

**President: Doug Akroyd**

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Much praise should also go to Colin Whitehead and Scott Jenkins for trying to keep the 4<sup>th</sup> XI going. Unfortunately, without a core 5 or 6 senior players with transport to get to the games the struggle proved too great and we regrettably had to withdraw the 4<sup>th</sup> XI from the league structure before the end of the season and also next season. It will now be incumbent on the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI to ensure that our budding juniors get the chance to play some hockey at senior level.

The Veterans this year were organised by me and captained on the field by Martin Wright. The games as always were enjoyable and we won our first match thus ensuring we then went through to the next 'league' style round. Unfortunately, we foundered here due to weather and lack of players - but we look forward to trying again next season.

The junior teams continue to show what our youth development programme can yield with an excellent performance by the U15/U16/U17 squads yet again. Special thanks must go to Stuart Harrison for managing the squad, and thanks to Phil Thomas, Bev Barstow, Martin Barstow, Terry Moorhouse, Steve Johnson, Martin Wright and Andrew Moriarty for all their hard work and commitment in coaching and organising the juniors.

We still need to increase the strength and depth in the club if we are to strengthen the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, and bring back the 4<sup>th</sup> XI. Closer ties with Bradford University and Halifax were progressed but disappointingly failed to make any headway by the end of the season. The club needs to attract more players by coercion, beguiling, cajoling and more advertising. You, the membership, can help by getting friends to join and promote the club in schools, colleges and workplaces.

Finances, although relatively healthy, still pose the usual problems. The Thornton Astro will probably not last the expected course and will need replacing in 2-3 years time. The management committee propose subscriptions remain as last season, but we must have your subscriptions in place at the start of the season if we are to stay in profit. You really must volunteer your contributions and fees without chasing! We have a Standing Order mandate and the facilities to accept credit card payments so there are no excuses.

OTC continued to provide some limited sponsorship, i.e. stationery, photocopying, postage and match balls, and Legend Internet provided a further free 12 months website hosting. Personal sponsorship has been also been provided by numerous individuals.

I continue to maintain the website and rely on the captains to please text, phone or email the scores and scorers after matches, as I have to input results to the YHA website.

Once again, I would like to thank The New Tyke staff, and particularly Brian & Maggie, for the magnificent hospitality that they provide us.

Thanks to everyone that supported the Annual Dinner. About 40 attended, including 3 ladies, but a few dropped out last minute so our profit was only about £60.00 instead of the hoped for £160.00. I hope that we see more of you, men and women, next year!

## Paul Bateson

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Honorary Secretary

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