

BRADFORD HOCKEY CLUB

Honorary Secretary's Report Season 2005 - 2006

At the end of last season we looked set to make some significant advances in the Yorkshire Leagues in 2005-2006. However the departure of two key players from the 1st XI, and with no new blood of an equivalent calibre joining the club, we naturally had to look from within. Richard Harpin and Mark Hammond moved up from the 2nd XI to the 1st XI to provide some excellent support to that committed band of young players. Unfortunately this left the 2nd XI without their two mainstays, and a works promotion for Andy Dowson resulted in his moving to his company's Swiss offices. We had hoped to some new 'old' blood would return to the club as well, but personal circumstances and work commitments put pay to that hope. The knock on effect of this impacted throughout the club and, although we were now running 3 teams instead of 4, it provided some challenging selection problems, particularly towards the end of the season when injuries started to take their toll.

Phil has taken a backseat in coaching this last season, but still provides excellent guidance and support from the wings, tirelessly working to promote Junior Development in North Hockey and Yorkshire. He still managed to support the 2nd XI as team manager from time to time and umpired when needed. Even with all this Phil still managed to produce the necessary documentation that resulted in Bradford being the first club in West Yorkshire to gain Clubs 1st accreditation from England Hockey. I would also like to thank Phil for his support in helping me to prepare the CCDP application that resulted in the award to Thornton Grammar School of a grant of some £15,000 to refurbish the pitch

Stuart Harrison grew some big shoulders and proved to be the mainstay of our senior coaching, as well as managing the 1st XI, the U18 Indoor squad and more besides. Excellent additional support, especially amongst the junior players, was provided by Bev Barstow, Mo Owen, Martin Wright and Andy Moriarty. Senior training benefited at the start of the season with the SAQ (Speed, Agility and Quickness) sessions from Darren and Paul Laver. These were primarily hockey-centric activities that developed core musculature. Those that took part and continued these exercise probably found they suffered fewer injuries!

The 1st XI did well in Division One and finished a creditable mid-table. A little more consistency and they would have been pushing for promotion. A mainly young team that show excellent maturity, ably supported by Del Shaw and latterly by Martin Wright as team captains and others 'older' players. Their enthusiasm and commitment was exemplary.

The 2nd XI struggled to keep a consistent squad this season and look to be fortunate to stay in Division 4 for 2005-2006. I would like to thanks Andy Moriarty for helping towards the end of the season with squad organisation - he certainly doesn't lack enthusiasm

Once again, Mick Hayes, ably assisted by his son Nick, motivated a sometimes 'thin' 3rd XI to come up with the goods on the day and managed at the end of the season to maintain a creditable mid-table position.



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The Veterans this year were organised by me and captained on the field by Martin Wright. Our goal-less draw with Lincoln belies the fact we ran them ragged and unfortunately we missed out on going through to the 'round robin' on penalty flicks.

The junior teams continue to show what our youth development programme can yield with an excellent performance from the U18 indoor squad who made it to the National Finals. The U10s were runners up in the National tournament in Nottingham! Special thanks to Stuart Harrison for managing the U18s, Andy Moriarty for the U10s and all the support from Bev Barstow, Martin Barstow, Terry Moorhouse, Steve Johnson, Martin Wright and Mo Owen for all their hard work coaching and organising the junior boys and girls.

We still need to increase the strength and depth in the club if we are to strengthen the 1st XI, 2nd XI and 3rd XI, and bring back the 4th XI. If the LTAD (Long Term Athlete Development) proposal is ratified as it stands at present then no club will be able to play any under 16s in senior games. Closer ties will be needed with Bradford University, other local clubs or through local sports initiatives and schools if we are to survive and grow. The club needs to attract more players and you can all do your bit to attract players back from 'retirement' or bring in new blood.

I would like to thank Colin Whitehead for stepping into the breach and offering his services as Honorary Treasurer. The detail financial situation is a somewhat confusing so Colin has his work cut out initially. He has already made some inroads and we now have moved the account from Barclays to an interest bearing 'club account' with HSBC - with free internet and telephone banking. A deposit account will offer better interest rates and Colin will keep a working 'float' in the current account. As usual we still need to improve the collection of subscriptions. These are set out in the letter sent to EVERYONE with a fixture list at the start of the season. There should be NO EXCUSES for non-payment. All members MUST volunteer subscriptions and fees within the first few weeks WITHOUT CHASING! We have a Standing Order mandate available and can also accept credit card payments - so where's the problem?

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.

I would like to thank Brian & Maggie, and the staff of The New Tyke, for their hospitality.

Thanks to the 35 of you (including the 2 ladies) that supported the Annual Dinner. This year we provided 3 new trophies - the Players Player - one for each team. I hope that we see more of you, both men and women, next year!

Paul Bateson

Paul Bateson
Honorary Secretary



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