

# BRADFORD HOCKEY CLUB

## Honorary Secretary's Report Season 2006 - 2007

Why is it so hard to get members to pay their subscriptions? It should not be incumbent upon club officials, captains and managers to have to continually badger players to pay their dues. Everyone knows that subscriptions are due at the BEGINNING of a season, but only a few actually volunteer their payment without being asked. If you are not sure how much to pay then just ask. Please help your club and pay up EARLY.

Phil continues to provide excellent guidance and support from the wings, and turned out to assist with umpiring for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. He continues to promote Junior Development in North Hockey and Yorkshire. He has once again tried to get Bradford University to consider amalgamation and has been instrumental in setting up a Schools Partnership agreement with Thornton Grammar School.

Stuart Harrison has once again proved to be the mainstay of our senior coaching, as well as managing the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 particularly Andy Moriarty. Senior training benefited at the start of the season with the SAQ (Speed, Agility and Quickness) sessions from Paul Laver.

A 1<sup>st</sup> XI squad of both young and experienced older players, with expert guidance from Stuart, did extremely well during the season and just missed promotion to the Yorkshire Premier Division finishing a very creditable third. Sadly we now lose Kylan, Ryan and Chris to University, so we will be looking to the continued support of the experienced players to help the new blood that will be needed in the squad next year.

This season the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI struggled to keep a consistent team together and despite some spirited performances from our younger players, and the positive voluble encouragement from the back by Dave Neville, the team have been relegated to Division 5 in 2006-2007.

Yet again, Mick and Nick Hayes, motivated a courageous 3<sup>rd</sup> XI to come up with the goods on the day and not only managed to maintain a creditable mid-table position, but also produced two leading goal scorers in the club - Colin Whitehead and Paul Wilkinson.

Despite some good hockey the season was marred by at least two disciplinary issues. These were both dealt with by the Management Committee and the players concerned were chastised and suspended as appropriate. The sort of behaviour that led to this disciplinary action cannot be tolerated anywhere either on or off the pitch!

The Veterans were again organised by me and captained on the field by Martin Wright. We found ourselves up against Ramgarhia who fielded what was essentially their 1<sup>st</sup> XI, but despite this stiff competition we managed to give them a very close run. We then met our nemesis in the excellent Kingston-upon-Hull veterans, last year's champions, and so our run came to an end - but a good time was had by all and some excellent hockey was produced.

**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)

Page 1 of 2



**Main sponsors:**

Optical Test and Calibration Ltd

Headliners

POP

Legend Internet

New Tyke

Yorkshire Building Society

Be a Sponsor and get noticed here!



The junior teams continue to show what our youth development programme can yield. Enthusiastically managed and motivated by Andy Moriarty, the U10s finished Yorkshire Runners-Up in their league competition. The club also finished the season with 12 juniors being selected for Yorkshire U12, U13 and U14s. Much praise must go to all the coaching support provided by Bev Barstow, Andy Moriarty, Stuart Harrison, Martin Wright and Mo Owen – and congratulations also to Iain Lettice in achieving his Level 1 coaching award.

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. The LTAD (Long Term Athlete Development) proposal embarked upon a survey within the clubs and will be insisting that clubs will not be able to play any under 13s in senior game, and this might extend to U15s in 2009. Closer ties must be made with Bradford University, other local clubs or through 'schools partnership agreements' if we are to survive. We need to attract more players and you can all do your bit to bring players back from 'retirement' or to bring in new blood.

Colin Whitehead has now moved our 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 already stated 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 and other company sponsorship initiatives are being actively sought.

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 Joan, and the staff of Soccer City, for the use of their facilities. I am sure the club agree that this was a good move and hopefully we can develop this relationship during the next season.

Finally it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Doug Akroyd as our esteemed and erstwhile President. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Doug for his contribution to the Clubs standing within Yorkshire. He has been a great ambassador for the sport and although stepping down in this official capacity we hope that he will continue as Press Officer and not sever his ties with the club completely – particularly as I still need him to play in the Veterans Cup next season!

Paul Bateson

Paul Bateson  
Honorary Secretary



Iain  
sponsors:

Optical Test and  
Calibration Ltd

Headliners

COOP

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)