

# BRADFORD HOCKEY CLUB

## Honorary Secretary's Report Season 2007 - 2008

At the risk of sounding like a gramophone record with the needle stuck in a groove, why oh why is it so hard to get members to pay their subscriptions? Every year it seems to be the same story. Club officials, captains and managers have plenty to do without having to continually chase members to pay their dues. 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 works extremely hard for the YHA & North to promote Junior Development and Youth Hockey. He keeps his finger on the pulse and keeps the club abreast of all the new initiatives, such as LTAD, Regional Performance Centres, The revived 'Odsal Sports Village' etc. He has also turned out to assist with umpiring when needed, particularly for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

Stuart Harrison continues as the mainstay of our senior coaching, as well as managing the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, and more besides. Excellent additional support, especially amongst the junior players, has been provided by Andy Moriarty, Bev Barstow, Mo Owen, Martin Wright, Iain Lettice and Alison Roome.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI squad of both young inexperienced and older experienced players, with expert guidance from Stuart, managed to hang on to their place in the Yorkshire Division 1 - thanks in no small part to Durham University gaining promotion in the north.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI struggled this season but fortunately kept their place in Division 5 due in no small part to some spirited performances from our younger players, the positive vocal encouragement from Dave Neville, and encouraging play from some new members.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI walked away with the Ronnie Summers Trophy as the team that performed the best this season and also produced two leading goal scorers in the club - Colin Whitehead and Paul Wilkinson. A lot of the team's success was due to Mick and Nick Hayes setting the example and getting a majority of the players down to senior training.

Despite some good natured hockey the season has been marred by disciplinary issues and other irregularities. These were dealt with by me and other members of the Management Committee. The players embroiled in the match discipline issues were chastised and suspended as appropriate. This behaviour and other irregularities cannot be tolerated.

Despite our good intentions to enter a Veterans team this year the timing of the first match, before Christmas, meant we were unable to raise a team and unfortunately we had to withdraw from the competition. Perhaps we can raise a team next year?



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**President: Paul Bateson**

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The junior teams did well this season with the U11 Girls and U13 Boys getting to through to the Yorkshire stage of the Yazoo National Mini-Hockey and the U12 Boys performed extremely well in the junior leagues under the guidance of Andy Moriarty. We finished the season with at least 8 juniors being selected for West Yorkshire and Yorkshire at U12, U13 and U15 level. Much praise must go to all the coaching support provided by Bev Barstow, Andy Moriarty, Stuart Harrison, Martin Wright, Iain Lettice, Alison Roome and Mo Owen. Congratulations also to Alison Roome, Colin Whitehead, Nick Hayes, James Cummins, Mick Flood and Adrian Brennan in achieving their Level 1 coaching award. Adrian then provided some valuable Goal keeping coaching and Alison took in the running of the U12 Girls with Andy's support. More interest has been shown by parents of our youngsters so there may be more Level 1 qualified coaches and umpires next season.

The YHA hope to run a Badgers league next season which would comprise 7-8 players down to U13 level and a core of 4-5 senior players with coaching experience. The club still needs new players so closer ties must be made with Bradford University and local schools if we are to survive. We need to attract more players!

The old Barclays account has now been closed down and all funds transferred to the interest bearing account with the HSBC. We need to improve collection of subscriptions. These are set out in the letter sent to EVERYONE with a fixture list at the start of the season, so there should be NO EXCUSES for non-payment. Members MUST volunteer subscriptions and fees within the first weeks WITHOUT CHASING! We have a Standing Order mandate available and accept credit card payments - so where's the problem?

OTC continued to provide some limited sponsorship, i.e. stationery, photocopying, postage and match balls. Legend has provided free website hosting, but this will disappear next season as they have been taken over by Demon. Personal sponsorship has been also been provided by numerous individuals and other company sponsorship initiatives have appeared with the purchase of a 'portable' shelter for junior matches (courtesy of Walker Morris) and a cash donation of £250.00 from Auker Rhodes that will be used for club equipment.

One consequence of trying to manage 2 roles at BHC is that the website has not been maintained. Fortunately Iain Lettice has offered to take this over next season. You will all need text, phone or email the scores and scorers after matches.

I would like to thank Joan, and the staff of Soccer City, for the use of their facilities and thanks must also go to Nigel Stubley for the excellent Junior Newsletter.

Finally I would like to thank those that have supported me in my role as secretary, particularly my wife Julia, who has been a 'hockey widow' since before we were married and hope that my successor, together with my help and that of the committee and the members, will be able to attract more volunteers to help with running the club. We will need their support in re-applying for ClubsFirst Accreditation which is due before 2009.

**Paul Bateson**

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President & Honorary Secretary



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