



Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club www.yshc.co.uk

Welcome everyone to the Annual General Meeting of Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club for the season 2012 / 13.

As ever at an AGM there are plenty of thanks and much praise to be offered to individuals and club members for the season that is drawing rapidly to a close.

I would firstly though like to thank everyone for your continued and much appreciated support during the long process that has culminated with the development of a new artificial grass pitch in Yeovil. This facility has been a long time in the making but I am delighted to say that we made it and we will be moving back to Yeovil for the season of 2013 / 14. I will discuss the new facility later during tonight's meeting.

Continuing then with the season that is almost over I would like to thank Tracey Western and Jon Stride for their continued work as the match fixtures and club liaison ensuring we all have games to play. And in the same breath I thank Andy Howat as umpire co ordinator for the completion of such a valuable and important role ensuring all games have suitably qualified umpires allocated to them. Also I thank the umpires for their participation in every game – we definitely could not do without your valuable input.

On and off the pitch the captains continue to play a vital role and I am sure the only time you do not have a mobile phone or e mail to hand is when you are actually playing. It has been a very exciting season for some and a very very trying one for others.

The ladies 1st team and the ladies 2nd team have been very successful. For the first time our 1st team have been promoted to Premier league one and the 2nd team to Central division. This is an outstanding achievement and while crediting the players and captains of these teams it is also important we give Lewis Walters credit for coaching the 2nd team to their success. The ladies 3rd team have not had the same results but it is fair to say that Sue has once again kept spirits high and the input of Gary Stickley as their identified coach is invaluable and will only continue to assist and develop this team as it evolves. The ladies 4th team are once again up and running guided by Jill and Davina and now also have their own identified coach in Adam Forsyth to assist in the all important development of this club side.

The mens 1st team have had a difficult season with 2 captains and a myriad of problems to overcome. Perhaps it is not always in the results that we should judge these individuals but in the spirit and manner in which they have gone about there business. Adam and Tommo have done a great job in keeping spirits high and have not stopped believing there will be a future despite relegation. The mens 2nd team have had a torrid time with a round trip tally of 2000 miles covered to play away games. The player availability has been appalling and I am sure most will cite the distances as a reason to not play. However Carl has done a fantastic job and

Mr Keith Walters
Chairman

Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club
The Vynes, Horsecastle Lane, Sherborne
Dorset DT9 6BH
Tel: 01935 813699
E-mail: klmwalters@btinternet.com

Mrs Jo McDermid
Liaison Officer

Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club
Parkland Farm, Stoney Stoke, Wincanton
Somerset BA9 8HZ
Tel: 01749 813301
E-mail: jomcdermid.yshc@btinternet.com

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will be sorely missed if he steps down tonight. The mens 3`s led by Richard and a group of ever available seniors have cemented there league placement while Jon Strides 4th team have narrowly missed promotion. Some of the players in this team truly inspire me to carry on playing. The ever mobile Pete Jakes, Hot Shot Howie, President Fudge and crack shot Kern are a great advert for longevity.

I briefly mentioned the coaches Lewis, Gary and Adam but must not forget Debs for her input with men`s coaching. The four of you consistently give up your own time for the benefit of others and I thank you for everything you deliver to the club and also recognising that Gary was this year voted South Somerset District `rookie` coach of the year.

I must encompass the junior section in to these thanks and inform you all that our junior section is quite amazing. A lot of work has been done to get more children involved in hockey and we now boast some 160 junior members that have benefited from not only training on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but also regular competitive games. The U10 and U12 have had games almost every second week against other clubs in mini tournaments and we have hosted a touring junior side from Surrey.

The U12 boys and girls first teams yesterday took part in the County round of the EH National competition playing against tough opposition from the likes of Taunton Vale, Taunton Civil Service, Shepton and Cheddar among others. The teams played some outstanding hockey with the boys coming 4th overall. However and to keep up the female winning ways within the club this season the girls team are now County champions and defeated every team scoring 37 and conceding only 1 goal. The girls now move to Millfield next Sunday for the West Regional round and if they perform well then they will qualify for the National finals in May.

Our U14 boys and girls teams have been competing in the EH development league and playing games as far a field as Plymouth, Okehampton and Exeter with great success.

We hosted another primary schools taster day and have had club coaches entering in to the primary and junior schools of Yeovil sign posting more and more children to the clubs junior section with great success.

We sent almost 20 young players to JDC this year with the majority being selected for either Somerset or Dorset JAC and I feel sure next year we will have even more success. I would like to thank in particular Gary Stickley for his contribution but also Richard McDermid, Adam Forsyth, Lewis Walters, Libby Walters, Nick Whigham, Tracey Rose, Jo Craw and Graeme McKinnon for your invaluable contributions at either training or tournaments. There

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is also the back room staff of Tony Organ, Jon Stride and Georgie Marks on match days who make the coaches jobs all that much easier with their central timing and game control.

If none of you have seen the juniors then I urge you to take the time to come and watch some of their tournaments and not only support them but support the coaches who give up their free time to travel across the south west ensuring the juniors play matches. Some of these juniors are amazingly talented and will very soon be playing competitive hockey in your teams and at much higher levels.

I thank all on the committee for your time and efforts and am very appreciative of what you have done. Whilst there are some I will have missed I must thank two more people publicly for their contributions. Firstly Justin Barton for stepping in to the murky world of money and the club finances as treasurer. The club has a turnover in the region of approximately £24k every year and Justin has the unenviable task of extracting money from your pockets and ensuring every person pays for the privilege of playing. Whilst the majority do pay on a weekly basis there are those that seem to forget their money or build up a debt Justin then has to chase before they disappear. Justin spends hours counting and collecting and entering information on to spreadsheets so we can pay the bills. I am very grateful for this and if there was one message I would want you to relay to everyone then it is that we all know when and where we are playing and as such we should therefore remember that we need our match fees on the same day. This would make life so much easier.

Finally all of our thanks should go to Jo who has for another season done the club very proud. Jo provides an invaluable service as club secretary and liaison ensuring we remain `fine` free and compliant with all the league rules. However this year Jo has taken the extra responsibility of assisting with the junior section and has been the point of contact for all parents and is pivotal when organising the children and tournaments. This has been a huge undertaking that has allowed the coaches involved to carry out their jobs without distraction. I am sure that some will wonder what post holders do for them and I urge you to spend a little time with Jo or another committee member to get a feel for what goes on behind the scenes for your benefit. There really is quite a lot more done other than booking a pitch to ensure our players and members who range from 5 years of age to 70 all have an enjoyable game or are eligible through the player pathway to bigger and better opportunities.

While supporting Jo and her tasks I would like you all to appreciate the time consuming process of player registration. The player registration process is complicated enough and with the mens league now following suit it will become even more time consuming. These forms are a pain to you but essential to us and as such I ask for next year that they are completed

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ASAP and submitted every training night when completed to make the task simpler. Late entries will not be entertained next season and unregistered members will have to wait a week to play if the form is not submitted on a training night.

There are a great many things for discussion tonight as we look to the future and I will address you further in a short while with regard to these matters, the new pitch and the proposals for consideration if we are to progress.

These are exciting times for the club, even if you are just a player that turns up on a Saturday. However the club cannot and will not function on the good will of the very small minority. There are many positions tonight either vacant or becoming vacant and all are open for an individual to make it known if they wish to participate as a post holder. There are a lot of new faces within the club and there are many who have been with the club for years without holding a position on either the committee or captaincy. I urge you to get involved and help the club to function and whilst making this request I fully understand that some roles are more onerous than others but that both myself and Jo are here to help at all times.

As a chairman I know that whilst this has been a fantastic season for the ladies section it has been a very very difficult one for the men and something that we need to focus on and improve next season.

With that in mind I hope that we can build some club spirit over the summer and utilise to the maximum with friendly summer games what will very soon be our new pitch in Yeovil.

I reiterate my thanks to everyone for your participation at every level and hope that the remainder of the meeting is productive. I look forward to our awards dinner and if I do not get to speak to you again in person tonight then please have a good summer and I look forward to seeing you at the new facility very soon.

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