

## Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club

[www.yshc.co.uk](http://www.yshc.co.uk)

1. I am sure that you are now all aware that we will be shortly relocating back to Yeovil. Ten years ago I stood and was voted as Chairman of the club and I remember saying that night that I would make it my mission to get us back to Yeovil. I never for one minute thought it would take ten years - but we have done it and I can almost say "job done". Having been part of the project and planning committee responsible for delivering this facility I would like to thank all those that have supported this venture and I for one am delighted that this is now happening and truly believe that it will benefit the club and the local community. I intend now to update you with the plans and the proposals for the coming seasons and as I have already requested – please get involved at all levels and help to make this a well used hockey venue
2. The contractors moved on site on 4<sup>th</sup> March – The cost £800k – with £120 funding from EH – community use agreement. The build time is 14 weeks so barring disaster the facility will be complete mid June.
3. Pitch location / facilities
4. Changing facilities
5. The club through negotiations will be initially paying similar hire fees as currently agreed at The Gryphon. These will from now on be reviewed annually in line with inflation and in order to keep the sinking fund for repairs and replacement of the pitch topped up. This is a high priority area that has never before been considered by our previous landlords. The sink fund is initially agreed to run for 20 years.
6. Employment of community coach is going to be sought by SSDC in conjunction with Yeovil College and the club. This post will be advertised through our National Governing Body, their web site and The England Hockey published magazines.
  - a. Part time 24 hrs a week to enter schools and deliver coaching
  - b. Aim to utilise pitch all day every day
  - c. Sign posting children to club.
  - d. Enter and work with delivery to college
  - e. Sign post college to club
  - f. Arrange school tournaments
  - g. Encourage / develop college coaching and umpiring
  - h. Work for and with club delivery
  - i. Assist club coaching – junior and senior
  - j. Assist with the club coaching structure and develop delivery
  - k. Work alongside existing club coaches
  - l. Identify juniors for JDC / JAC and onward.
  - m. Assist in club selection
7. Funded by SSDC and SASP with contributions from Y & SHC and Yeovil Colleges.
8. The benefits to the club are that with an anticipated rise in club participation and membership (juniors and seniors) then the club will reap greater profits enabling investment in more paid

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- coaching / or reimbursement of coaches. The ability for the club to purchase more equipment. Also the club will be able to annually review its expenditure.
9. The community coach would oversee and run school holiday camps with any profit being shared between SSDC and the club on a yet to be agreed percentage.
  10. All of the above bonuses are dependant on numbers and the success of the scheme and it is anticipated that if we agree to take part in this then the initial contract run for 2 years. It is fair to say that we will probably be able to gauge in which direction we are headed after the first year.
  11. Paid club coaching. In order to build for the future and also to contribute to the community coach and build for the future we must consider our own club structure and in particular the annual subscriptions and match fees. In my 10 years as chairman the subscriptions have not risen and when compared to other ambitious clubs in the south west we are still by far the cheapest and only club relying on the good will of a few people to deliver coaching.
  12. Our match fees rose several years ago from 7 to 8 pounds to capture the missing money to cover the costs of pitch hire for training. Since this time we have also without cost to the members increased the reimbursement rate of 12p per mile to 15p per mile for petrol. This in itself has eliminated any benefit of the match fee rise of 1 pound.
  13. Whilst I am also a coach I am tonight speaking as the chairman of the club and as such I would like you to put aside my coaching duties and hear only what I have to say. I am an advocate of coaching and its delivery. To deliver up to date and modern techniques. I fully support England Hockey and its ambitious plans to get as many children as possible playing hockey from a very early age. At Yeovil & Sherborne we deliver good coaching and not taking away Debs quality contribution to the mens section we in particular provide the juniors and ladies with an unrivalled coaching structure. However the good will of coaches can wane and if there is an excuse for a night off or failure to plan a session or stay up to date then the excuse can easily be cited of `I am a volunteer – so what`.
  14. A good coach plans a session and stays up to date with modern practices. Each session which a player benefits from can take an hour to plan depending on the level or intensity of delivery. Couple that with the delivery time of an hour and half then every time a player steps out for training then that coach responsible for the player will have been busy for 2 ½ hours. Not only will the coach have spent 2 ½ hours either preparing or delivering but they have also got off their sofa, left their family behind, cancelled other personal events and driven to be with you and for your enjoyment. We all appreciate the coach but how much and how do we think we could manage without them. We have a mens section to rebuild and put back on track. We are entering a 4<sup>th</sup> ladies team in to the league. For the first time ever we have a ladies second team in the Central league and ladies first team in the premier 1 division and a short step from National League status.

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15. To date this has only been achieved upon the goodwill of the coaches who have given up countless hours. If we are to incentivise these coaches and build on these successes then I think it is time for the coaches to be financially motivated in order to deliver the service you have come to expect.
16. What must also be considered is that this is not necessarily just about you but about those we are trying to attract not only to the club as players but also those as beginners. No where is this more important than the junior section and the legacy we are trying to build. Personally I have had my day as a player and I hope that you can also see that Yeovil & Sherborne should look to invest in the future, the youth of today, whilst also providing hockey for all abilities and its current members.
17. I urge you tonight to consider what you have, what you could have and what we are trying to build for the future. A big club, a huge club, a centre of excellence (why should Bath or Exeter be the only ones), a club that delivers quality coaching to all levels. And finally a successful club that interacts fully with the community and schools and can be proud of what it is and what it is trying to achieve,
18. The proposals are that we invest in the community coach scheme and that we pay and suitably reimburse our coaches through a contract scheme. This can be achieved by a small increase in fees for not only the junior section but also the senior section.
19. Please be mindful that having a paid coach at Yeovil & Sherborne is not a new concept. It has happened before but at that time the club were paying a large amount of money for a service they were not financially or realistically prepared for. We now have the pitch successes, membership and structure that can make this a viable proposition.
20. I bring to the floor my proposals to increase senior match fees and subscriptions in order to fund not only the coaching posts as I have previously discussed but also to improve, replace and purchase new equipment and fund the inevitable increase in costs that we have managed to keep at bay for many years.
21. This equipment is much needed and includes balls, bibs, training aids but more importantly goal keeping kit. Both the ladies and mens sections urgently require new goal keeping kit as we continue to recruit players to the club. Each set of senior kit costs between £500 and £1000 pounds depending on the quality purchased and not every keeper can afford to purchase their own. I am sure you all appreciate that we cannot play without a keeper and neither can we continue with the poor out of date equipment we currently have if we are to attract players and train them to play competitively.
22. The other costs that we are now forced to keep pace with include such things as post match hospitality and pitch hire. Over recent years we have negotiated very much reduced rates for teas for opposition teams and currently pay approximately £2000 per season to provide this hospitality. This can no longer be sustained and we are forced to keep up with the demands of the retailer and the host provider. With reference to pitch hire we currently pay in the region of £14000 per annum for this

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usage and it is by far our biggest outlay. However and despite the early negotiation for the hire of the new facility in Yeovil we must accept that we will have to be prepared for rises in line with inflation. Naturally we will negotiate for discounted rates for block bookings and being the majority user but we should be prepared for all eventualities and an increase in charges.

23. With all of the points I have discussed in mind the proposed increases in match fees and subscriptions are set to take account for and include everything and should mean that there will not be another price increase for at least five years, though naturally there is no guarantee of this.

### **24. SO THE PROPOSALS AS YOU SEE FROM THE AGENDA ARE AS FOLLOWS**

25. I firstly propose we buy in to the community coach scheme and pay towards that coach at the England Hockey designated rate..

26. I secondly propose the fee increases to fund coaching, equipment and other rising costs as follows;

- A) Senior subscriptions – from £95 to £120. (£130 if not paid by 31/10)
- B) Juniors playing within the senior section subs – from £50 to £65.
- C) Senior match fees – from £8 to £10.
- D) Juniors playing within the senior section match fees – from £5 to £6.
- E) An all round payment for an individual who knows they will play all season - £325 – 10% = £292.50p. This equals subs and 20 games and there will be no reimbursement unless injured. This will be trialled for one year.

22) And finally I propose we contribute £10 per hour for level 1 coaches of which there will be a maximum of 4 and £20 per hour for level 2 coaches of which there will be a maximum of 2 dependant on the appointment of a community coach.

23) All of the above are open for discussion and I will try to answer questions before we step forward with voting.

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