



KEY POINTS FROM COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 14th January 2019

Distribution: All Club members

In Attendance:	Barrie Izard (BI)	Club Chairman	Chair
	Debs Gemmell (DG)	Club Membership Secretary	
	Carl Bason (CB)	Club Treasurer	
	Di Darch (DD)	Ladies Club Captain	
	Alex Hayes (AH)	Head Coach	
	Leanne Lambert(LL)	Umpiring Co-ordinator	
	Charlie Webb (CW)	Social Secretary	
	Jo Stevenson (JS)	Club Secretary	Secretary
Apologies:	Steve Fudge (SF)	Club President	
	James Bell (JB)	Men's Club Captain	
	Claire McSevney (CMc)	Welfare Officer	

The Year Ahead

With the second half of the season well underway it is time to look to the year ahead. 2018 was a year of change resulting in a great deal of work for many people, and 2019 looks as if it will not be a quiet one either. Before briefly reviewing what has been achieved in the past year, and what we can look forward to in the next 12 months (!), we must say a very big thank you to Jo Stevenson and Debs Gemmell: In addition to undertaking her busy role as Club Secretary, Jo has taken on the mantle of Junior Administrator, while Debs has done sterling work managing the club membership system, particularly at the start of the season.

Looking Back - 2018. During the past year we have agreed and implemented new pitch booking and management procedures with SSDC; implemented the changes necessitated by the new data protection regulations; welcomed and integrated new coaches into the Club; and renewed our ClubMark accreditation with England Hockey. We need to maintain our ClubMark standard and there remains some outstanding work to be done in this area. However, the two most noticeable changes have been the use of the new Cricket & Bowls Pavilion at Westlands for the foreseeable future as our *de facto* clubhouse for entertaining visiting teams and various meetings; and the successful integration into the Junior Academy of an enthusiastic team of parents - and senior members - as volunteer team managers, coaches and umpires.

Looking Ahead - 2019. Following a recent announcement by the FIH - hockey's world governing body - the most significant change in the rules of hockey since the removal of the offside rule and the introduction of the "self-pass" may take place for the start of the 2019/20 season. Meanwhile changes to the structure of the senior leagues - particularly the Ladies' - could also have an impact. We should aspire to refresh the organisation of our Summer hockey programme, and review the coaching programme for next season to ensure it best fits our needs and the availability of coaches.

A Sustainable Club. The changes over the past 12 months demonstrate that any organisation must not get complacent, and must look for a steady recruitment of members (both young and old!); establish sustainable programmes to maintain a healthy pool of coaches and umpires; and foster tomorrow's leaders and administrators. At the end of last year captains and coaches joined members of the management committee members to identify the club's strengths and weaknesses as well as the opportunities and pressures that club may face in the future. The discussions were very useful and will help to focus development plans for the rest of 2019 and beyond.

The Club's the Hub. With a significant sum of money reserved 'To provide quality hockey coaching in order to inspire young people and ensure they benefit from all this sport can offer', and England Hockey re-launching QUICKSTICKS later this year, we should be planning to reach out to the community and local schools during 2019 to further develop hockey in the Yeovil and Sherborne district by training coaches and staging events: For our club to be the focus of local hockey, encourage new players and, ultimately, new members.



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Summer Hockey. While the normal season - September through to March - is all about “serious” competitive hockey, the period from late Spring into the Summer (April to August) should be all about less competitive, “fun” hockey. It is a challenge to integrate senior players that are brand new to hockey into our Winter programme and we should not wait until September to accept new starters into the Club: With less emphasis on team training the Summer period presents the opportunity for us to introduce new people to the sport of hockey and run an effective “back-to-hockey” programme. Furthermore, with club members placed in their respective teams by ability, age and gender for the main season, there is little opportunity to integrate, gain experience playing with people of differing abilities or look at players’ potential for the main hockey season ahead. Therefore, the emphasis in the Summer should be on mixing-up ages and abilities such that by the end of the Summer, when we mark the start of the new season with the Club Day/HockeyFest in early September, we should all know each other a little better; juniors who are ready to move up to senior hockey have had exposure to playing with seniors before we get back into our normal teams; and new players who wish to continue and play competitive hockey are ready to join-in with the Winter training. The Summer programme could also give people who have not done so before the experience of running a team, or new umpires the confidence to go for qualification, in a friendly environment when getting something wrong would not really matter.

Umpires. A season or two ago we enjoyed the services of some twenty plus club umpires, however, what with one-thing-and-another the number of umpires who are able to officiate regularly has dwindled and we need to get the numbers back up if we are to enjoy the benefit. The Club will be holding an introduction to umpiring evening in the not to distant future for anyone who is interested in umpiring but is not yet qualified to Level 1 standard. We then plan on providing opportunities for beginners to umpire during the Summer (see above) before committing to attending a Level 1 course in the late Summer/early Autumn should they then have the confidence to do so. For those that were disappointed not to attend the Level 1 course planned for October last year that was cancelled by England Hockey we will endeavour to ensure that the same circumstances do not arise again.

Publicity - Information and Communication. There is, however, no point in planning these activities if we are not in a position to effectively publicise events within the Club and, more importantly, in the local community; unfortunately we have for sometime now not had anyone filling the role of Club Publicity Officer. Not only will this be a particularly important role as the Club develops further and introduces new initiatives which we want the local community to know about, but also key in maintaining an inclusive atmosphere within the Club and promoting a strong sense of belonging. There is no reason why the job has to be done by just one person so please let us know if you have any expertise or interest in covering any aspect of this increasingly important position.

SUMMER HOCKEY



Planning for the Summer Hockey Programme is underway and this year it will be run by the Club. It is proposed to run the following activities through the ‘summer term’ from the **end of April until mid-July:**

Back-to-Hockey for Men and Women - Monday Evenings - 7:00 to 8:00pm

Summer League - Tuesday Evenings - 7.00 to 10:00 pm

Please let your captains know if you are interested in captaining/ playing in a Summer League Team so we can decide if this is going to be an internal club activity or if we are going to invite other clubs to take part.

Pay and Play for Juniors - Wednesday evenings - 6.30 to 7.30pm.

Pay and Play for Adults - Wednesday evenings - 7.30 to 8.30pm.

More details will be published once the plans are confirmed.



CLUB BUSINESS

TESCO
Bags of Help

The Club will receive £2,000 from the **Tesco Bag for Help Scheme** which - along with a very generous donation from the **Graeme McKinnon Memorial Educational Fund** - will be targeted at providing specialist hockey training for local schools and providing coaches to run appropriate sessions - after school, holidays, weekends. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this scheme. It is particularly timely as England Hockey are set to re-launch the QUICKSTICKS programme in schools during 2019.



Important Dates for your Diaries

Annual General Meeting - Westlands Pavilion - Thursday 16th May

Awards Evening & Dinner Dance - Northover Manor - Saturday 27th April

Second Saturday Social - The Globe, Yeovil - Saturday 9th February from 7.30pm.

Bad Weather Planning

- A What's App group is to be set up including the Club Secretary, Coaches, Captains, Club Captains, Fixtures Secretaries who will confer 24 hours in advance if weather outlook is poor.
- Message will be sent out 24 hours in advance on Full on Sport, Facebook and Website to warn players and parents that weather may result in cancellation.
- If a decision cannot be made the previous day, the pitch will be checked at 8am on Saturdays or by 5pm during the week prior to a training session.
- Players and parents should also make their own decisions as to whether it is safe to travel and attend scheduled training sessions.
- Players and parents will be informed of any cancellations via messages posted on Full on Sport, Facebook, Club Website. Captains should inform their teams and Fixtures Secretaries will inform any opposition concerned.

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOUR ACTIVE SUPPORT

Communications Officer. Responsible for implementation of the Club's Publicity Strategy with regular updates to the Paper/Website/Twitter feed and distribution of advertising info to local community groups and schools. This is a role that could be carried out by a Communications Team with individuals taking on different aspects of the role

Volunteer Coaches for Senior or Junior sessions. The best starting point is to just volunteer to come and help the Lead Coaches at one of these sessions or at junior tournaments. We welcome any offers of regular support at these sessions and you will have the opportunity to see if it meets YOUR needs too.

Umpires. We have much appreciated parents and players who have volunteered to help umpiring Junior tournament or friendly matches for the club. We would like to encourage more of you to have a go but we are aware you may need some more understanding of what is required. With this in mind, an Introduction to Umpiring course is planned in February. There will then be an opportunity to have a go at umpiring more Junior and friendly matches with support from qualified coaches. The club then plans to host an England Hockey Course for you to qualify as a Level 1 Umpire and develop your confidence and skills further. **Do let Leanne Lambert or Jo Stevenson know if you are interested in doing some umpiring for the club**

Please contact Jo Stevenson (stevenyeov@gmail.com) if you can help out with any of these roles OR if you have any ideas for the development of the club OR would like anything discussed at the next committee meeting.

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PLAYING MATTERS

SENIORS



Post-match Meals. Taking account of member's views and club finances post-match meals at Westlands Pavilion are increased to 20 for rest of season. Please support this initiative by ensuring your team returns to the Pavilion for refreshments.

Currently the refreshments are provided in the old Cricket Pavilion due to a burst water pipe in the new building, which is awaiting insurance company action.

Some gentle reminders!

Please make certain you sign in at each training session with your captains. Selection for teams will be dependent on skill, availability and attendance at training.

Please ensure match fees are paid to Captains in £5 and £10 notes as this makes the Treasurer's job more manageable Many thanks to all those Captains who are paying by Bank transfer. All this is making the Treasurer's job much more manageable.

Please ensure you pay your match fees on the Match Day as you cannot be selected again until you have paid what you owe – though the committee is sympathetic to any requests received regarding financial hardship.

Match reports should be posted on our club Facebook page with details of the score and who scored goals for the club so they can be collected and entered on the Club Website.

Please ensure you are wearing the correct Club Kit when playing in league matches – see details on the website.

Pitch Etiquette



Please ensure that the dug-outs and pitch surrounds are left tidy after your match.



JUNIOR ACADEMY

Numbers attending Junior Training sessions continue to rise and feedback on the sessions is very positive. Please spread the word amongst your friends and school contacts - we could particularly do with more boys joining the club.

We are looking forward to welcoming 15 U14 girls and 3 U14 Boys to Men's and Ladies training after half term and hope they will all join the Senior section of the club next season.

Parents have been great supporters and a number of you have been umpiring and helping out at tournaments. A key group of volunteers have been identified to help with each age group and Lead Coaches are just responsible for one age group. This is helping to spread the load for all of us and has ensured that we can include as many children as possible in the monthly tournaments.

Results at the Inter-Club Tournaments have been mixed but it is the taking part that matters the most and the delight we all take in seeing the hockey skills and friendships develop.

The Junior County Finals take place in March /April:

U10 - on 10th March- 1 Girls & 1 Boys team entered

U12 - on 3rd March- 2 Girls & 1 Boys teams entered

U14 - on 7th April- 2 Girls & 1 Boys team entered

The U14 Girls Team have their England Hockey Tier 2 Matches at 11am at Yeovil Rec on 3rd and 17th February and 24th March - please do come and support them



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SUPPORT AND SOCIAL

WELFARE

Barrie Izard and Pip Dawes have joined Claire McSevney, the Club's Welfare Officer, in completing the England Hockey "Time-to-Listen" safeguarding course to fulfil the Club's Clubmark commitment.

SOCIALS

Do put all these dates in your diary and encourage your team-mates to join you in socialising with the rest of the club.

Second Saturday Socials. Held on the Second Saturday of each month at The Globe in Yeovil, providing an opportunity to meet informally for a chat and a drink together: Next one on Saturday 9th February from 7:30 pm.

Dinner Dance 2019. The Northover Manor has been booked for the 27th April 2019.

Members say they would like more social events but there is limited attendance for what is organised so we want to try to get more support in the planning and advertising of club events. **Team Captains are requested to nominate a social representative for your team who can liaise with Charlie Webb (Social Secretary) to help organise social events and encourage their team mates to take part.**



Club playing kit and outer clothing available from Sports of Bond Street in Yeovil and KITZUK in Sherborne. Links on Club website.



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