

STOCKTON HOCKEY CLUB 2019/20

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is a bit of a challenge giving “the view from the bridge” when we are n’t even allowed out to see the sea at the moment, but it is a privilege once again to try and draw the activities of the club and the teams together as we end another busy, albeit truncated, season.

The most astonishing thing to my mind is that we now boast over 350 members. That is an enormous growth and requires a lot of input from a large number of people to properly administer and run. In an all encompassing “thank you” we should pay tribute to all those who administer, coach, organise, captain, umpire and contribute in whatever capacity. From junior to veterans we should be proud that we have a club that provides opportunities for everyone to play and improve at whatever age and level of ability they wish to play at.

We have a strong management team, which has produced a number of new initiatives this year. There were successful social events, an excellent “Hockey 100” draw, and the adoption of a new management tool and means of communication in “Teamo”. This is the management tool of choice for the club, and its use will be fully adopted next season to the benefit of the club.

The playing season was a success. The teams’ individual reports are available on the website, but overall all teams performed creditably. Particularly pleasing were the efforts of the Ladies 1st XI, and the new “5th team”, Yarm, which provides a fantastic pathway for juniors to progress into the senior sides. The introduction of the “Family Fives” initiative was a great success, not just for those taking part, but for the wellbeing of the club in general. Mention should be made of the over 50s who’s inevitable lifting of the national trophy was one of the casualties of Corona!

Our home pitch at Egglecliffe deteriorated badly during the year. With the promise of a new pitch dependent upon the building works at the school, a full refurbishment of the existing pitch was undertaken. The result was a dramatic improvement in the standard and quality of the surface, which should now last until the situation regarding a full pitch replacement becomes clearer.

The club’s committee worked hard during the year, and met regularly to oversee the season. Thanks are due to them for their hard work and dedication, particularly at a time when nationally we are going through yet another England Hockey-inspired change to our league structure.

I can’t finish without touching upon the present challenging circumstances. There are undoubtedly some clubs that are not going to come through this current crisis. I believe we are in the strongest of positions to cope with these difficulties - this on-line AGM being an example of how we are able to cope. Our finances are in good shape. We have a great committee. And we have a huge number of willing and dedicated members. Goodness only knows what hockey will look like when we come back for next season. What impact will all this have on changing facilities, sharing car journeys etc? I do know we will be in the best position to cope. Stay safe.

Gerard Tompkinson

